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Monday Diggings: The Old Ranch House

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
September 1, 2025
Artificial Intelligence
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/09/01/monday-diggings-the-old-ranch-house/

Today's *DIG* into my genealogy files uncovered a special treasure—a poem written by Mildred "Mickey" Bailey Barby, a fellow BRILES family researcher. Her piece, *The Old Ranch House*, captures the melancholy beauty of an abandoned homestead and the memories it still holds.

Here is Mildred's poem in full:

THE OLD RANCH HOUSE
by Mildred "Mickey" Bailey Barby

Oh, the Old Ranch House so lonely there,
Owners are gone, I wonder where.
Weeds have hidden the red-rock step
The watch tower for the old dog, Shep.
The path to the mailbox has grown dim.
The carrier misses those who waited for him.

The windows are broken and bare,
No lovely curtains to hide their empty stare.
The floors are worn – rough and splintery.
The walls are cracked where mice make their entry.
The spiders have built their webs here and there,
But there's no woman to see or care.

The pack rat has been busy day after day,
Packing in chips, hedge balls, and hay.
The pigeons circle, flapping their wings
Making plans for the coming Spring.
They light on the ridge pole to love and coo
To keep in touch like most birds do.

The kerosene light shines no more
Casting no shadows as it once did on the walls and floor.

It lighted the way for those that traveled near
And gave the old House light and cheer.

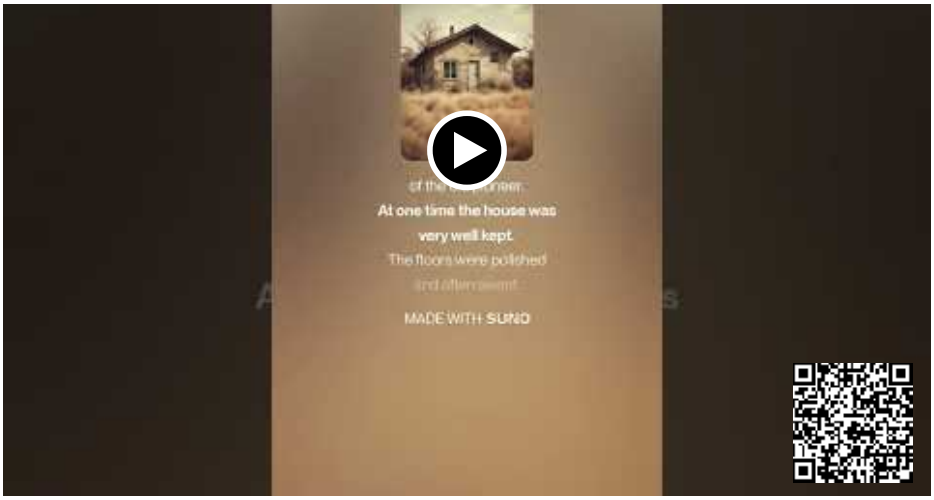
The horned owl glides through a broken door
Here he spends his days sleeping and hiding himself.
His hoot replaces the voices, laughs and cries
Of the pioneer family whom the house no longer occupies.
There is much evidence of this here.
Oh, how we miss the family of the old pioneer.

At one time the house was very well kept.
The floors were polished and often swept.
The occupants were as happy as could be
And the open countryside left them so free.
The family – children, husband and lovely wife
Enjoyed its wonderful protection from strife.
When came the hail, rain and blowing snow,
The family was warm and safe in their bungalow.

The family has gone and will never come again
And the old House reflects its sadness and pain.
I hear it say,
“Where has gone my youthful days?”
With sympathy I wonder about all this
As I write, ponder and reminisce.
It reminds me of our life here on earth.
Without friends and God to share our Life, what are we worth?

Using her words, I brought the poem into a new form—set to music with the help of AI. It’s a reminder that while houses may crumble and families move on, the memories and stories of those who came before us still live on through poetry, song, and family history.

https://youtube.com/watch?v=9EGAoLIn9sc



I hope this song honors both Mildred’s creative spirit and the pioneers whose lives inspired her words.

Tradition or Fact?

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
September 2, 2025
Augusta County,Crawford
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/09/02/tradition-or-fact/

Have you ever come across a family story — one repeated in various genealogical publications — that feels like it *might* be true… but lacks solid proof?

As I work to trace my **CRAWFORD** ancestry, I've found myself returning again and again to one such story. My CRAWFORD line is well documented back to **James Crawford**, who married **Sally Duggins in 1799** in **Garrard County, Kentucky**. Clues in land records, migration patterns, and allied families all point to **Augusta County, Virginia**, as the earlier home of my CRAWFORD ancestors.

But that's where the trail becomes tangled.

The Famous Crawfords of Augusta County

Augusta County is home to a well-known and often-cited Crawford family: **Alexander Crawford** and his wife **Mary McPheeters**, who were tragically killed by Native Americans in 1764. While many descendants of Alexander and Mary are well documented, questions remain about Alexander's **parents and siblings**.

Despite the murkiness, a handful of **compiled genealogies and manuscripts** repeat a familiar narrative — one that connects Alexander to **a set of siblings** and names his parents as **Col. William Crawford and Mary Douglas**.

What the Sources Say

Here are some examples of how this tradition appears in published works:

📘 ***Miami Valley Genealogies*, Vol. 2 (Brien)**

This volume summarizes records suggesting a sibling group — Alexander, Patrick, James, George, and Mary Crawford — all present in Augusta County, VA by 1745. The following appears:

> "The chancery writ of *Brown vs. Patteson* (1769) states that Patrick was a brother of James Crawford, dec'd. 1751… Augusta County records show a close relationship between Patrick, James, and George Crawford."
>
> And quoting the *William and Mary Quarterly*:

> "Ann Crawford… was evidently the mother of four sons: Patrick, James, George and Alexander, all of whom settled in Augusta County, Va. prior to 1748."

These relationships are reinforced by tradition — but the identity of the parents, particularly **William and Mary Douglas Crawford**, is cautiously presented as speculation.

🟩 ***The Descendants of Robert and John Poage*** **(Woodworth)**

In Chapter 7, Mildred Bledsoe Crawford is quoted saying:

> "…the parents of Mary Crawford who married John Poage, George Crawford who married Elizabeth Poage, and Patrick Crawford… were Colonel William Crawford and his wife, Mary Douglas."

This account adds that Alexander was recorded in Lancaster Co., PA in 1744, and Augusta County in 1745 — helping support the timeline of these siblings being in Virginia together.

🟧 ***Descendants of Alexander and Mary McPheeters Crawford*** **(1980)**

This unpublished manuscript by researchers Mildred Crawford and Helen Marsh provides perhaps the most detailed presentation of the tradition. It traces William Crawford back to Scotland and Ireland:

> "Col. William Crawford… married Mary Douglas in Scotland, then removed to Londonderry, Ireland. It is presumed they both died in Ireland. They had nine children who migrated to Lancaster County, Penn., sometime before 1737."

The children listed include **Alexander, William, Margaret, Ann, James, George, Patrick, and Mary**. The document includes citations from Chalkley, Waddell, and other historical references to support the presence and relationships of these siblings in Augusta County.

However, even this source admits:

> "We have been unable to establish definite proof that Col. William and Mary Douglas Crawford were the parents of these children."

The Core Question

So, we're left with a tantalizing tradition, echoed in multiple sources, anchored by circumstantial evidence and local records — but still **missing direct proof**.

- Are Alexander, James, Patrick, George, and Mary **truly siblings**?
- Was **Col. William Crawford** — surveyor, soldier, and settler — their father?
- Does **Mary Douglas**, reportedly born in 1694, lie at the root of these lines?

Many researchers, like myself, would *love* to find a will, Bible record, or land deed that definitively connects the dots. Until then, we must hold this story in tension — balancing tradition with critical analysis.

Have You Seen This Story Before?

If you've encountered this same Crawford tradition in your own research — or if you've come across **primary source evidence** that strengthens or challenges it — I'd love to hear from you!

Let's work together to help determine:
Is this tradition truly fact — or just a beautifully told family legend?

Untangling the Rebecca Anderson Puzzle on FamilySearch

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
September 3, 2025
Crawford,Montgomery County
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/09/03/untangling-the-rebecca-anderson-puzzle-on-familysearch/

Do you ever get confused looking at a family on the FamilySearch tree, wondering how one woman could possibly be the mother of two different sets of children born in overlapping years? That's exactly the dilemma I ran into while continuing my CRAWFORD research.

On FamilySearch, Rebecca Anderson [LZ6S-RWZ], wife of James Crawford, was also shown married to John Thomas Maxwell [GX24-T1M]. According to the tree, Rebecca supposedly had children with James Crawford between 1780 and 1804, **and** children with John Thomas Maxwell between 1778 and 1798. Clearly, something wasn't right.

The confusion grows when you realize that Rebecca Anderson actually did marry a John Maxwell before her marriage to James Crawford. The problem? That John Maxwell died before 1779.

The Maxwell History and Genealogy Account

The book *Maxwell History and Genealogy* outlines Rebecca Anderson's family clearly:

- Rebecca Anderson first married **Rusty John Maxwell**.
- She married second, **James Crawford**.

Their children included: John Maxwell, William Crawford, James Crawford (who married Lucy Vawter), Isaac Crawford, Ann Crawford (married Robin Creaths), Jane Crawford (married David Hall), Cynthia Crawford (married John Crafton), Polly Crawford (b. 1786, married William Brown Guthrie), and Elizabeth Crawford (b. 1792, married Beverly Vawter).

This matches the expected timeline: John Maxwell died before 1779, after which Rebecca married James Crawford and raised their family.

Documentary Evidence of John Maxwell's Death

A full-text search of Montgomery County, Virginia, records confirmed the details. In March 1779, Rebecca Maxwell was appointed administrator of John Maxwell's estate, alongside Bazwell Maxwell.

> *"Administration of the Estate of John Maxwell is granted to Rebecca Maxwell & Bazwell Maxwell, who entered into Bond & Security according to Law…"*

— *Montgomery County, Virginia Court Order Book, 1779* [FamilySearch, image 17 of 94; IGN 007897248]

The corresponding bond, signed March 2, 1779, by Rebecca Maxwell, Bazwell Maxwell, Patrick Campbell, and Robert Buchanan, further proves that her first husband John Maxwell had indeed died by that date.

Correcting the FamilySearch Tree

Armed with this evidence, I corrected the FamilySearch entries:

1. **Undid the merge** of John Thomas Maxwell (1751–1802) [GX24-T1M] and John Maxwell (1753–1779) [PMTV-2V3].
2. **Removed Rebecca Anderson** from the family of John Thomas Maxwell.
3. **Attached the Montgomery County court records** to John Maxwell (1753–1779) to document his death.

While it's certainly possible that John Thomas Maxwell (1751–1802) was married to an Anderson, no attached sources supported his wife being Rebecca Anderson, daughter of John Anderson of Fort Boonesborough.

A Hope for Clarity

By restoring the correct relationships and attaching original records, I hope this will prevent future confusion and stop these two unrelated Maxwell families from being merged together again. Genealogy is always stronger when we rely on the records—and in this case, they make Rebecca Anderson's story much clearer.

Sons of the American Revolution

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
September 4, 2025
DAR
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/09/04/sons-of-the-american-revolution/

Last week, I accompanied my husband to Leavenworth to attend the meeting of the Henry Leavenworth Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. That night, Michael lit his lantern as an inductee and was challenged to beocme a “Rising Sun” in the Sons of the American Revolution. His ancestor was Thomas Sebring.

To my surprise, I was also recognized during the meeting. I received the “Medal of Appreciation” for my ‘outstanding service to the Sons of the American Revolution.’

The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

Marcia Jo Crawford Philbrick

Medal of Appreciation

Friday Find: Michigan WELLS Family

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
September 5, 2025
Wells
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/09/05/friday-find-michigan-wells-family/

Wells School

The Wells school stood on the south side of Kinsel Highway just east of where Nashville Highway ends. The original schoolhouse was situated on the line between Sections 1 and 2 of Kalamo Township. This building was constructed by a Mr. Grant of Kalamo. After a time, for some now-obscure reason, the schoolhouse was moved just east of the Faust and Wells farms on the north side of the road, which put it in Vermontville Township.

Years later the Wells district decided a new schoolhouse was needed. Notices of a public meeting on the matter were posted. There was a good deal of controversy over selection of a site: some wanted it where the old school had stood, others wanted it built farther to the east, and some wanted it to the west. A location about a quarter-mile west of the old site finally was chosen.

A contract was drawn with Mr. E. E. Ellis of Carlisle to build the new brick school for $854. Everything was to be furnished by Mr. Ellis, and the building was to be completed by October 1, 1876. If the contractor failed to meet the deadline he was to reimburse the school district $100.

W. A. Farr, B. F. Wells and Clark Foote were a committee appointed to act as judges of material and workmanship in the new schoolhouse, and to accept the final job. Ellis was to be paid in three installments at 10 percent interest, with the final payment due in 1877.

The school director at the time was D. L. Thayer. Other board members were Alexander Boyd and Robert Muir.

The first teacher in the new school was Eliza Boyd. Other early teachers there were Lyda Tichnor, Abbie Sutten and Myra Lute.

Sometimes during the noon hour recess a friend would come to take Miss Sutten for a ride. Occasionally while she was gone, some of the schoolboys would climb atop the heating stove in the school and from there clamber up into the attic. The teacher had quite a time getting them to come back down.

The Wells district was consolidated with Vermontville schools in the 1950s and the old schoolhouse was torn down.

This school was located on Benjamin F. Wells property. Section #3 Kalamo Twp.

Source: *A History Of Kalamo Twp.*, Eaton Co., MI, 1969

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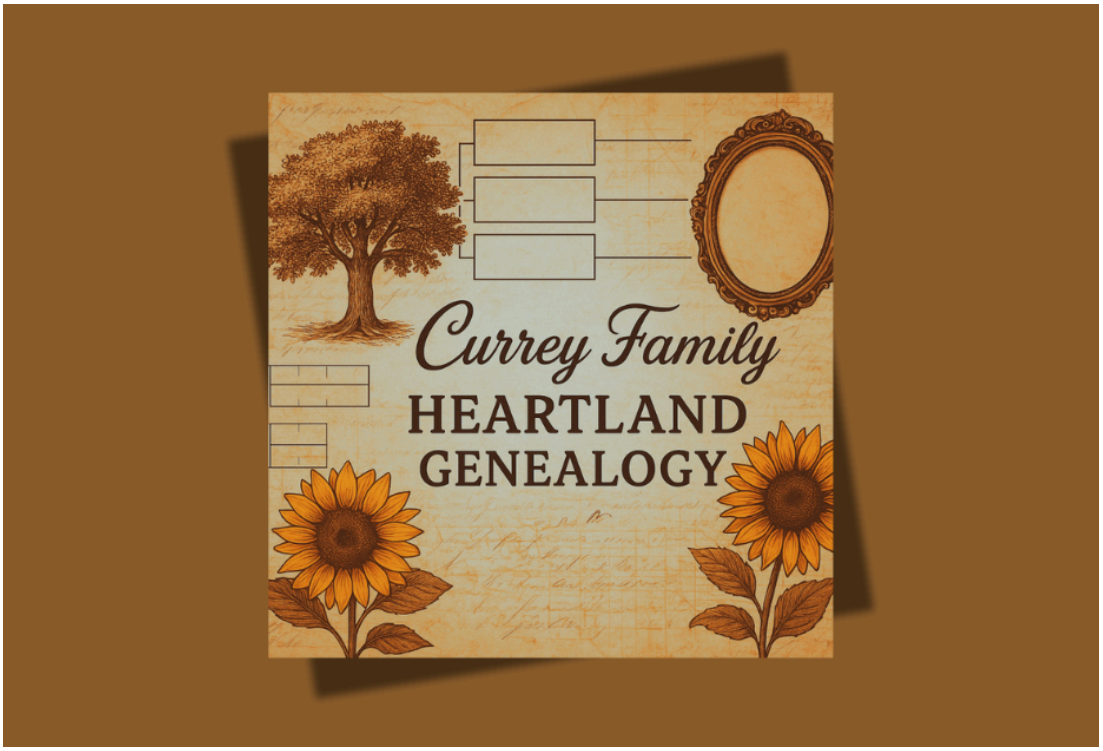
This school was located on Benjamin F. Wells property. Section #3 Kalamo Twp.

Source: A History Of Kalamo Twp.
Eaton Co. MI 1969

ABC Biography: Herbert Miles Currey

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
September 6, 2025
ABC Biography,Currey
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/09/06/abc-biography-herbert-miles-currey/



The Life of Herbert Miles Currey (1895–1971)

Early Life in Missouri and Kansas

Herbert Miles Currey was born on 3 April 1895 in Liberty, Clay County, Missouri, the son of Hiram Miles Currey and Winnie May Hutchinson 1–8 . His early years reflected the mobility of many Midwestern families at the turn of the twentieth century.

By June 1900, the Currey family had relocated to Delaware Township, Leavenworth County, Kansas. The census enumerator recorded "Herbert Carrey" as a five-year-old boy, born in Missouri in April 1895 9 . Five years later, the 1905 Kansas State Census placed him in Lansing, Leavenworth County, Kansas, where he was listed as a ten-year-old boy living in the household of H. M. Curry 10 .

The family moved again, this time to Rooks County, Kansas. In 1910, Herbert, then fifteen, appeared on the federal census as the son of Hiram M. Currey, again with Missouri recorded as his birthplace 11 . Like many Midwestern families, the Curreys were part of the larger migration across the plains, moving in pursuit of farmland, railroad opportunities, and new beginnings.

Marriage and Early Adulthood

On Christmas Eve, 24 December 1916, Herbert married Pearl Grace Stewart in Ogden, Weber County, Utah 12–22 . This union began during a period of national transition: the United States was preparing to enter the First World War, and young men across the country were being called into military service.

Herbert registered for the military draft on 5 June 1917 in Ogden. He listed his occupation as a chauffeur for the Consumer Gas Company 23 . Later that year, however, he encountered difficulties with his military obligations. On 20 September 1917, when local men were called up, Herbert failed to appear. The *Ogden Standard-Examiner* reported that his whereabouts were unknown and that he was considered a deserter by the draft board 24 .

Despite this episode, Herbert and Pearl began raising their family. Their first daughter, Dorothy M. Currey, was born on 8 July 1920 in Ogden, Utah 25–27 .

Homesteading in Idaho

Like many Americans of his generation, Herbert sought opportunity through land ownership. On 10 February 1925, he filed land entry papers for three parcels in Caribou County, Idaho: the north half of the southwest quarter of Section 9, Township 8 South, Range 40 East 28 ; the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 8 29 ; and the northwest quarter of Section 9 30 .

By 1930, the family was firmly established in Idaho. Living in Bancroft Village, Bannock County, Herbert appeared in the census as a 35-year-old railroad section foreman, supporting his wife and children 31 . His career with the Union Pacific Railroad reflected the importance of the rail industry in building communities across the Intermountain West.

Community and Church Life

Herbert was active in both church and community organizations. By the 1940s, he was a farmer in the Soda Springs area 33 . That same year, the federal census placed him in Davisville, Caribou County, Idaho, recorded as a 45-year-old Missouri-born head of household 34 .

During World War II, he again registered for the draft, this time in 1942 from Soda Springs 35 . He was by then too old for active duty, but like many men of his generation, he dutifully fulfilled his registration requirements.

Herbert became deeply involved in civic and fraternal life in Soda Springs. He was an elder in the Soda Springs Presbyterian Church for decades 32 . He was also a member of Caribou Masonic Lodge No. 84 39 and served as worthy patron of the Golden Rod Chapter No. 64 of the Order of the Eastern Star 41 . Such affiliations reflected both his standing in the community and the importance of fraternal organizations in rural America during the mid-twentieth century.

Later Years

By the 1950s, Herbert was employed first by the Union Pacific Railroad 37 and later by the Soil Conservation Service 38 , working to preserve and develop farmland during an era when federal conservation programs were reshaping American agriculture.

He remained active in family life as well, attending the Currey family reunion in Sedona, Arizona, on 16 August 1964 42 .

Tragedy struck in 1971 when Herbert was injured in a gas explosion that ripped through a trailer home in Payette, Idaho. He suffered shock and serious burns and was treated at Holy Rosary Hospital 43 .

Death and Legacy

Herbert Miles Currey died on 20 April 1971 in Ontario, Malheur County, Oregon, at the age of 76 8,44–52 . At the time, he and Pearl had been married for more than fifty years.

Obituaries published in Idaho and Utah newspapers emphasized his life as a farmer, railroad employee, Soil Conservation worker, elder of the Presbyterian Church, and respected Mason 13,21,48 . He was survived by his wife, one son, two daughters, five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at the Soda Springs Presbyterian Church on 23 April 1971, conducted by Rev. David L. Crawford 58–60 . Masonic graveside rites were given by Caribou Lodge No. 84 at Fairview Cemetery in Soda Springs, where he was buried 53–57 .

Herbert's life story reflects both personal perseverance and broader historical themes: the migration of Midwestern families westward, the influence of railroads and federal land programs in shaping communities, and the importance of faith and fraternal orders in rural civic life.

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Whats in My Genealogy Toolbox

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
September 7, 2025
genealogy
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/09/07/whats-in-my-genealogy-toolbox/

Recently, Linda Stufflebeam shared her list of *Essential Tools for Genealogy Success* on her blog, **Empty Branches on the Family Tree**. Inspired by her post, Teresa followed with her own list of *Essential Tools for Genealogy* on **Writing My Past**. Their examples prompted me to take stock of my own genealogy toolbox. [Note: This is also the question for this week's Saturday Night Genealogy Fun Question by Genea-Musings Randy Seaver.)

So, what do I consider essential?

Core Equipment

First and foremost—a **computer**. While I love the convenience of my phone and tablet, I don't rely on them for serious research. I need a computer, preferably with multiple monitors, to work efficiently.

Genealogy Software

Just as important is **software that supports documentation**. My first program was *PAF (Personal Ancestral File)*. It fit my budget and printed family group sheets and pedigree charts, but it didn't let me record sources. As my research skills grew, I moved to *The Master Genealogist (TMG)*. When TMG was discontinued, I transitioned to **RootsMagic**, which I still use today.

Everyday Tools

My toolbox also includes a variety of programs that support both research and preservation:

- **Microsoft Office** – Word and Excel
- **Adobe Acrobat** – for working with PDFs
- **Paint.net** – resizing and editing images
- **Second Copy** – for scheduled backups to external drives
- **Scrivener for Windows** – storing notes, finds, and transcriptions
- **Deed Mapper** – mapping land records

Online Tools

To share my research and create engaging content, I use:

- **Canva** – image and video creation
- **WordPress** – blogging and publishing
- **Google tools** – email, Drive, and Docs

Artificial Intelligence

Finally, I've added **AI tools** to my toolbox, which help with writing, organizing, and creative projects:

- **ChatGPT**
- **Google Notebook LM**
- **Perplexity**
- **Suno.com**

Genealogy Research

- **Ancestry** – my primary online tree, databases, DNA
- **Family Search** – collaborative tree, county records, books
- **Find a Grave** – cemetery information
- **Newspapers.com** – My primary resource for newspaper research
- **WikiTree** – collaborative tree connected to yDNA tests, Crawford project, DNA tree
- **MyHeritage** – tree connected to yDNA tests, DNA
- **Archive.org** – county histories and other online books
- **Genealogy Bank** – more newspapers
- **Family Tree DNA** – Crawford project yDNA tests; my mitochondrial DNA

Collaboration

- Feedly – reading genealogy blogs
- Facebook Groups – surname and local history connections

My toolbox has evolved over time, and it continues to grow as technology changes. These tools not only support my research but also help me preserve and share the stories I uncover.

Monday's Diggings

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
September 8, 2025
Briles
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/09/08/mondays-diggings-12/

Have you ever stumbled across a story that sounds like it came straight from a crime novel? That's exactly what I found in an account titled *"A Lifetime in One Day."* The story begins in Sublette, Kansas, about thirty miles north of Liberal, where three people—a woman and two men—were being held in jail. Somehow, the jailer's gun, or another weapon, was used to kill the jailer, and the trio made their escape. They fled into Colorado by stealing a pickup in Sublette, and in a twist of fate, one of the men was even a cousin to the jailer.

Elmer Briles later told the story of the night the fugitives showed up at his mother-in-law's home on March 17, 1995. At the time, the escapees were being held in Colorado for kidnapping and were expected to be tried in Kansas for murder.

A Lifetime in One Day

Lena and I were down at Pritchett, staying with Lena's mom Jessie Thyfault. It was about 6:15 a.m. when awakened by someone knocking on the door upstairs, as we were sleeping in the basement. After the knocking we heard voices, and Lena got up and tried to look out the basement window to see what she could see. She could not see anything as she didn't have her glasses on. She then put her house coat on and went upstairs. I got up and looked out the window and could see a pickup parked in the driveway. I put my clothes on and went upstairs.

The basement steps lead to an area by the back door. Going by the door I observed a man in coveralls doing something with a jack at the rear of the pickup. I continued on in to the kitchen and saw another man in coveralls and a woman. The man was dialing the phone and saying something about making an 800 call, to find out about a funeral in Pueblo. They indicated that they were from Kansas and were trying to get to Pueblo. I then went outside to see if I could help them get their tire fixed. When I got to the rear of the pickup I could see that they had a jack that would raise the pickup, but it didn't appear that they had a jack handle.

There was some conversation about how they got there, it appeared that they had gotten lost looking for Colorado 101. They wanted to know the directions to Pueblo. I said that there were two ways. One way was west to highway 109, the other way was north on highway 101.

The man that appeared to be trying to change the tire didn't seem to know what to do with the jack. I knelt down sliding the jack under the axle. While I was doing that the other man came out of the house and joined the man who was already there. They told me that there was a more serious problem. I stood up and they both opened their coveralls showing me that each of them had a pistol. At that point, I felt as if everything just drained out of me. There were many things went through my mind. First being, why me, then what can I do, is there anyway to get away, then a feeling of helplessness. They told me that they wanted my car that was parked just in front of their pickup. I reached into my pocket and got my keys. I held them out and said here are the keys. Then they said that I had to go with them. I said that I wanted my coat.

They told me that I couldn't go into the house. They wanted to know how many phones were in the house, I said just one. They said that if I wasn't telling the truth they would take it out on my mother. I don't know but somehow Lena knew I wanted my coat and the woman brought my coat to me. He told me to get in the car on the passenger side front. I did hoping that we could hurry and leave, so that it would only be me with them. The red headed man told the woman to bring them back some breakfast, and that he would get in the driver's side of the car. The other two got in back and we drove off.

The next thing that they wanted to know was that it seemed funny to my wife that someone else was driving my car. I told them that she would not think anything of it. That seemed to satisfy them about that for the moment. Then they said clothes, I said that the women noticed the girls orange clothes, I said that they wouldn't think anything of it. We were driving south from the house and there was a thin coat of frost on the windshield, but could see through it. We came to the county road and turned east, into the sun, which made it so nothing could be seen through the windshield. The driver did not slow down even after going off the road into the ditch.

Many questions were asked about directions to Las Animas, without asked about directions to gave them directions going to the closest town? I to Highway 101. Then they back way from the farm had any money, I said a little and reached into my pocket and produced a money clip with twenty-three dollars. The woman took the money and said that I shouldn't be broke so she gave back three dollars. They said that if I didn't do what they said or lied to them that they would have someone come and take care of my mother. They also told me that they were going to let me out as soon as we got to town, and wanted to know if I believed them I said no. That seemed to upset the red headed man. They were passing the two pistols around in the car with them cocked.

While driving about 85 mph on gravel roads. We were off the road several times and just barely able to keep from turning over. We almost hit an antelope just north of Butte Creek. The driver was very careless; if something in the car got his attention he would ignore driving.

The younger man said that if he found I wasn't being straight with him he would rattle a .22 slug around in my head. They seemed concerned that the police would be after us and that I wasn't telling them the truth about where we were going. They found a map in the rear seat and wanted to know where we were? The girl held the map over in front of me and asked for me to show her where we were. The map she had was of Wyoming. I told her that we are not in Wyoming, and if you turn the map over I might be able to show her where we are. She did and I was able to show her we were about 30 miles from Las Animas.

During this time they were at one time talking about letting me go and then about what they would do to my family and me if I didn't do as they said.

The girl found a container of hair spray in the back seat area. She sprayed it all over her nose and told me to tell my wife she sure liked her hair spray. The red head told the ones in the back to remember the buildings that we were passing on the left. I think that he thought that I was directing him in circles.

Finally we could see Las Animas, they instructed me to put on my seat belt, and wanted to know which side the gas cap was on. The red head told me that when we got to the gas station I was to look at the radio and nothing else. They wanted to know where there was a liquor store, I told them that I didn't know. The red head gave his gun to the man in the back seat. We then came to the Loaf-n-Jug and he pulled up to the gas pump, got out and went into the store. He returned with a 12 pack of beer and a pack of cigarettes, he put gas in the car and someone said that the right rear tire was going down. When he finished pumping in the gas he got in the car and pulled over to the air station.

There was some concern as to who had 25¢ for air. One of them found the money. The young man put air in the tire, he had much trouble doing it and the red head was getting very nervous, he said get in and let's get going. He wanted to know which way to Pueblo, I told him and he pulled out of the station and almost hit a car. He repeatedly asks how long the tire was going to stay up and the men in back keep telling him not more than ten minutes.

Just a little way west of Las Animas he pulled off the highway onto a gravel road. The girl said that she couldn't change a tire on the dirt road. Just about that time a paved road appeared in front of us, he turned west on the pavement and pulled over to where the tire that needed changed was off the pavement. He took the guns from the ones in the back and told them to change the tire. The girl opened my door and opened the glove box and released the trunk latch. They messed around in the trunk for some time and then wanted to know where the jack and lug wrench was. I told them that it was in the trunk. They then took my two cameras out of the trunk and put them in the back seat. Messed around some more and found the jack. They tried jacking up the car and couldn't, it slipped off the jack twice, then they decided that they must get the car back on the pavement. There was much yelling about who was not doing things right. The girl yelled at the driver for not parking on the pavement. He then drove off and over the jack to get the car on the pavement. They were then able to get the car jacked up but couldn't get the hub cap off. The red head told me to get out and take the hub cap off. I got out and he followed, standing behind me while I removed the hub cap, then told me to get back in the car, which I did. During all this they were drinking beer and smoking cigarettes. The red head got back in the driver's seat and started playing with the pistols. He kept telling me that he was going to let me go, and he was fixing the pistol he was going to give to the other man so it wouldn't work. I didn't believe him but did not argue with him. He then showed me some tattoos on his arms and told me that one of them meant white supremacy. He noticed the cellular phone and wanted to know if someone could call us? I told him no, it must be plugged in. He sat there a while and told me to plug it in. I did and he looked at it and asked how to turn it off? So I turned it off. They finished changing the tire and put the doughnut on. He drove west until we came to a "T" intersection. He took a left and we headed south toward highway 50. The road curved a little to the left and he drove off the edge, then jerked it back on the road. When we reached the highway he turned west heading to La Junta.

For the first ten miles or so he didn't drive over about 60 mph. They offered me a beer. I told them I didn't want one. I didn't tell them, but I wanted a clear head so I could try to get out of this mess.

They keep drinking and smoking and the speeds keep getting faster. We went through La Junta doing as much as 60 mph at times, and no police. Just about ran into the median at Swink and somehow missed hitting the curb. It was about this time when the girl decided to get in front. Driving was getting worse. The road and his wheels lost control on a curve west of Fowler and got sideways in the road before corrected. During most of this time the speedometer was flashing 85, it apparently will only indicate 85 and flashes when more than that. He would come up behind a vehicle and not slow down until the very last minute. Several times we almost ran under the back of a flat bed trailer. He would attempt to pass when there was not enough room, causing the other drivers to correct for his driving.

Meanwhile I made a decision that the first time I was where there were people around I was going to make a run for it. By this time I am sure that I am going to die, so I have decided that I would rather be shot than be in a car wreck. The driver kept getting tractor just barely making the curve south of Boone, had to slow down for a car, and made the curve at the Boone road easier. Rear ended a car that was only going about 60 mph between highway 50 bypass and the Arkansas River. Just after that he slowed down and turned off the highway at Avondale road.

He said that he had to pee and stopped the car. When the car stopped I released my seat belt, the two men got out on the driver's side of the car and started to the back of the car. I heard them say that the police were coming, I opened my door and got out as they were getting back in. I saw a police car with emergency lights on, but it was on the south side of the highway 50. I though oh my god he is going to turn onto the highway. Just about that time the girl yelled for me to get back in the car. I looked back at her and saw she had a pistol pointed at me. I looked back toward the police car and saw that it had crossed the highway. I never looked back just went toward the police.

The police car slowed and one of the officers asked if I was all right. I said yes. He said for me to stay there, and they sped off after the escapee's in my car. I watched the cars go out of sight.

I looked around and there was nothing to see, but it sure felt good, just to be alive! I sat down on the ground for a moment, but could not be still so I got up. I saw a police car with siren and lights going east on highway 50. Then I noticed a pickup pull off the highway, and the driver rolled down the passenger side window and asked if I was Bill Bradburn's Uncle? I said that I was. He said that he was the Fire Chief and that he had gone to school with Bill. He asked me to get in the truck and have a seat, that he was listening to all of this in his scanner. A fire truck pulled up alongside and stopped. The fireman wanted to know if I wanted to go to the hospital, as the ambulance was on the way. I said that I didn't want to go to the hospital. The fireman said let me take your vitals. I said okay and he took my blood pressure and heart rate. He said that my blood pressure was a little high, I said that if it wasn't I would have been extremely surprised.

By this time an officer in an unmarked car arrived and asked if I would go with him to where they had stopped my car. I went with him and we went north to highway 96, turned east and drove several miles. There appeared to be a half mile of cars behind my car. He drove around part of the cars then stopped. We got out and started toward the car, when I saw a most welcome sight. Bill was there and came toward me, we hugged. I was then introduced to the Sheriff and several other people. The TV reporters were there and wanted an interview, but I declined. I separated the coats that were left in the car, giving the officers the ones that the escapees were wearing. Then was introduced to the detective who was going to take my statement. He wanted to know if I was ready to get out of there, I said that I was and he directed me to his car. On the way to town he asked if I wanted to call my wife. I said that would be nice but I could not remember my mother-in-law's phone number.

We stopped at the first fast food store. The detective bought me a Pepsi boy did it ever taste good. We then drove on to the sheriff's office. When I went through the door into the waiting room I got another very pleasant surprise, Loretta and Glenn were standing there. We visited for a while then the receptionist said that I could use the phone. So by Loretta telling me what the number was I was able to call to Lena for the first time in what seemed an eternity.

I wrote a four page statement and talked to several reporters. They brought me some jail house lunch. The only thing that I can remember about it is that it was very salty. I talked to Bill several times and also to Loretta and Glenn. About 1:30 they released my car to me. Glenn and Loretta took me to his house so I could use the phone to call Allstate. I called and got the okay to fix the car so it would be operable. Glenn loaded his floor jack into his pickup and we went to the lot where my car was. We removed the left front wheel from the car and got the wheel from the trunk. We then went to Discount Tire and I purchased two new tires. We then installed the two new tires on the car. I removed a group of beer cans from the car and put them in the back of Glenn's truck. I thanked Glenn and headed for Pritchett.

Stories like *"A Lifetime in One Day"* remind us that history is not only found in dusty records and old courthouse ledgers but also in the lived experiences of the people in our communities. Whether passed down in family memories or recorded in first-hand accounts, these moments connect us to the past in vivid and sometimes unexpected ways. By preserving and sharing them, we ensure that future generations will not only know the facts but also feel the human side of history.

Life Sketch of Philemon Vawter Crawford

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
September 9, 2025
Crawford,Indiana,Vawter
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/09/09/life-sketch-of-philemon-vawter-crawford/

Have you ever stumbled across a personal biography in your genealogy research? These first-hand accounts can be rare treasures, offering insight that official records alone can't provide. While working to untangle a mix-up on the FamilySearch tree—where two different John Maxwells had been merged together—I rediscovered such a gem: a biography of the Crawford family preserved in the book *The Vawter Family in America*.

Within the section on Lucy (Vawter) Crawford is an 1882 narrative written by her husband, Philemon Vawter Crawford. In this remarkable first-person account, Philemon not only reflects on his own life but also shares details about his grandfather, James Crawford, providing us with a vivid glimpse into both family history and the broader events of their time.

> LIFE SKETCH OF PHILEMON VAWTER CRAWFORD
> (Written by himself in 1882)
> James Crawford, my grandfather on my father's side, was born in 1759 and reared on or near James River, Virginia, and at the age of sixteen years volunteered in what was known as the Virginia line and served three years in the Revolutionary War. He afterward was a volunteer in the war of 1812. He married, and they reared eight children, three sons and five daughters. My father, James Maxwell Crawford, was the oldest son. He was born March 3, 1790, in Jared county, Kentucky, where my grandfather had removed among the earliest settlers, and endured all the privations and hardships of frontier life, my grandmother having her full share in the troubles.
> But to hasten the story: My grandfather, James Crawford, from Jared county, Kentucky, removed to Harrison county, Indiana, in 1811, when my father was twenty-one years old, and settled on a farm near Corydon, where my grandfather died.
> My grandfather, Philemon Vawter, was also born in Virginia, and served in the Revolutionary War, under Washington, and was a soldier at Yorktown. My father often told me how in the early times he had seen a grill dance in the Indian marches. They afterward moved from the state of Virginia to Kentucky, and became acquainted. They removed from Kentucky to Jefferson county, Indiana, in the year 1807, and here my father and mother were married December, 1812. My mother's name was Lucy Vawter, and my father and mother reared ten children—myself the oldest, born September 24, 1814.
>
> This genealogy is given from memory, but I believe correct so far as given.
> My grandfather Crawford and family belonged to the Presbyterian Church, but renounced their creed under the reformation of Barton W. Stone, my father being the only one who did not unite with the Christian Church. Being of an excitable temperament, he finally drifted into the Methodist Church.
> My grandfather Vawter was a Baptist preacher, and his family were all members of that order except my mother and two of her brothers, who adopted the early reformation under B. W. Stone. The two brothers, Richard and Beverly, became Christian preachers.
> When I advanced far enough in my early education to read, the Bible was our main school book, and in the New

> Testament I got my first lessons in Christianity, and thereby was led to embrace it very young. I have lived it sincerely, though I must confess imperfectly, ever since. It has been the dearest thought of my soul. I never expected to appear in the likeness of Christ's manhood, but must appear in the likeness of His death. I have tried to live up to the golden rule as near as possible, though far short I have come.
> As life, with its varied scenes, has been like all other men's lives, we find here a little pleasure but much affliction and sorrow, and the most of the afflictions are the loss of dear friends and near and dear relatives. During life I have seen many precious friends consigned to the silent tomb.
> Becoming favorably impressed with the descriptions of Oregon, I, with my family, emigrated from Jefferson county, Indiana, in 1853, and landed safe in Lane county, Oregon, with my wife and family, and several other families with whom we traveled, some of them named Sanders, St. Johns, Maxwell and Stroud. We left Jeffersonville, Indiana, April 1st, and arrived safe in Lane county, Oregon, September 28th, after traveling six months and nearly one week.
> My family at that time consisted of myself, wife and five children, the oldest fourteen, the youngest four years of age. We made the long and tedious journey of two thousand miles with ox teams in just one hundred and fifty-two days. When we —
>
> we arrived in Oregon we found the Willamette valley more than we had looked for, and all we could desire, and we are yet, after twenty-one years residence here, satisfied that there is no more favored spot on the earth.
> The generation in which I have lived is one that will form an important chapter in the world's history. The application of steam to vessels, the railway when I was nine years old, the first known to exist, left only as a useless principle in history. Our progress in the last half a century is more than the world ever before witnessed. Telegraph wires vibrate lightning thought, and the prairies, mountains and even the almost trackless snow are now traversed by steam engines. Human audacity has tunneled mountains and bridled Southern gulfs. For six thousand years the multiplied millions of its waters a gigantic rebellion has been indulged until within the last quarter of a century the thunders ceased to roll. The war clouds have lifted, and the sunshine of peace is over the land. I have lived to see the great rebellion inaugurated, and witnessed the crimson of its first wave and the triumphal overshading of the crimson at four years' end, but the agony of its retributional consequences must ever linger on the pages of time here.
> I enjoyed the morning of life. I witnessed the gathering storm and lived through the great conflict. I am still spared, but I now realize that I should not regard the African slavery, if it had not ended as it did with regard to its abolition, would still be an unsettled question and menace our government.

Philemon Vawter Crawford's reflections remind us how invaluable personal writings can be in genealogy. His words not only preserve the details of his own life and family but also provide a window into the struggles, faith, and resilience of earlier generations. As researchers, we may spend much of our time piecing together facts from records, but when we encounter a voice speaking directly from the past, it deepens our understanding of both the people and the times in which they lived.

Searching for a Needle in a Haystack: Tracing Mary Crawford's Origins

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
September 10, 2025
Crawford,North Carolina,Virginia
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/09/10/searching-for-a-needle-in-a-haystack-tracing-mary-crawfords-origins/

Have you ever felt like you're searching for a needle in a haystack when doing genealogy research? That's exactly how I feel as I try to unravel the mystery surrounding my CRAWFORD line.

I can confidently place my ancestor, James Crawford, in Garrard County, Kentucky, in 1799 when he married Sally Duggins. Clues suggest he may be the son of Mary Crawford, who purchased land along Sugar Creek in 1791. Mary appears in Madison County, Kentucky tax records beginning in 1787 and is named in court records by 1788. In 1793, she married Alexander Moore, and the couple sold her land in 1797. It's believed that Mary and Alexander Moore later migrated to Fleming County, Kentucky, where she likely passed away.

To confirm or refute the theory that Mary Crawford is the mother of my James Crawford, I continue to search for documents that shed light on her identity and connections.

Recently, while using FamilySearch's full-text search, I came across a North Carolina record for a Mary Crawford. While I don't believe this record pertains to *my* Mary Crawford, it proved to be a valuable genealogical discovery in its own right.

The document supports the family structure of Colonel John Crawford, a known descendant of David Crawford of Jamestown. Below is a transcription of that record, including FamilySearch and WikiTree IDs.

> "North Carolina, United States records," images, FamilySearch (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-L9GF-2WTT?view=explore : Sep 3, 2025), image 111 of 332; . Image Group Number: 007641174
>
> North Carolina Bible Records, Church Records and Genealogies
> Compiled by
> The Alexander Martin Chapter
> Daughters of the American Revolution
>
> Image 110
>
> 81
>
> John Crawford .
> Records :

From manuscripts of the late Edward Aiken Crawford sent to Mrs. William Sinclair Stewart3rd , (Jennie Watson Stewart) by Charles T. Crawford of Lawrenceburg , Tenn .
" The first Crawfords to come to America , and the founders of the Rockingham , N. C. Paris , Tenno branch of American Crawfords , were John and David Crawford [Crawford-335] , father and son . John Crawford, son of Cadet of the Ayrshire , Scotland Crawfords was born in Kilburnie in 1600 . His wife died in Scotland , leaving one son , David , who was brought by his father to Jamestown , Va . , in 1643 . John was killed in 1676 , in one of the fights during Bacon ' s Rebellion .
David [LDPV-1XH] , born in 1625 , married in James City County , Va . , at the age of 24 , and died in New Kent County , Va . , in 1710 . He had three daughters and two sons , Captain David [Crawford-334] and John [LDPK-M4W]. Captain David [L6PL-5VL] , born 1662 , called " Good old Captain David , " in New Kent Co . , Va . , married Eliza beth Smith [LC58-VXL] 1695 in Hanover County , Va . , died 1762 , in New Kent County , Va . , over a hundred years of age . His sons were David [Crawford-336] [L6PG-M1B], born in 1697 , who married Ann Anderson : John [Crawford-449] [L8DK-H9C], born in 1701 , who married Mary Duke : and Michael [LJKN-FLR] , born in 1707 , who married Elizabeth Terrell in South

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Carolina
The Descendants of Col . John A. Crawford
Col . John A. Crawford [L2WJ-BW3], of the family in North Carolina , coming there in 1739 , was a son of John [L8DK-H9C] and Mary (Duke)[LZNK-L5M] Crawford, mentioned above . He commanded a regiment of " Tar Heels " in the Continental Army . He was born in 1731 (or 1733) and died in 1802 . His first wife was a Miss Mastin [LHXB-P4V], probably the mother of his sons ; after her death he married a widow Clark [9QN4-VK4] , who had two daughters , Rachel [LYJT-1RL] and Julia Clark [9QN4-VK4].
Col . Crawford had three sons , Thomas [LZLD-1WD], Mastin Duke [LY3S-MTD], and James [L44D-NGN]. The last named is said to have moved to Texas , and whether he was married or left descendants is not known .
Thomas [LZLD-1WD] married Rebecca Covington [LZLD-14D], and they had children as follows : Thomas[LZLD-R2T], married Harriet Wall [LTD4-1L2]; William [MKG6-4S9], married Miss Cole[L4H4-NSX], Mastin Duke [LHS7-WZC], married Miss Covington [L44D-JZY] (this was probably a son of Mastin Duke 1st, and not of Thomas) ; John [LY39-52V] married Miss Covington; and Ann [LZF2-9RQ]who married a Randle[LZL6-MDH], and was the grandmother of the late Henry B. Gaines of Mc Kenzie , Tenn . "
Other references from same Manuscripts as above ; written by Hon . Walter Leak Parsons, of Rockingham , N. C. (he died Dec . 1931) . He was the great grandson of Mastin D. Crawford (Methodist preacher) , who was born in 1779 , as shown in his grandmother ' s family Bible now in possession of his family .
Other references are from " Family Records " of Capt . William I. Everett of Rockingham , N. C. (deceased) .
Also " Family Records " of C. E. D. Edgerton, Richmond County Historian , Rockingham , N. C.
Supplimentary Details — Partly from Records of No . 1067 N. C. Society Colonial Dames of America ,
The said John Crawford was born 1731 (or 1733) in Virginia , and was in North Carolina as early as 1749 . He resided in the Colony or Province of North Carolina (Anson County) . He died 17 — or 1802?
At a council held at Newbern 11 th day Oct . 1749 , 300 acres of land was granted to Jno . Crawford of Anson Co .
John Crawford was Justice of Peace for Anson Co . , N. C. , appointed by Council held at Brunswick , Dec . 31 , 1762 . N. C. Col Records Vo . 6 , pg . 799 , Vol . 4 , pg . 966 .
John Crawford was elected member of the Assembly from Anson Co . , held at Wilmington , N. C. Feb . 1764 .
Also member of Assembly held at Newbern , 1766 , from Anson County . He was elected again in 1768 , but resigned on account of his inform state of health . N. C. Col Records , Vol . V , pg . 655 – 656 .
" Read the petition of Jno . Crawford of Anson Co . setting forth that he is possessed of a patent for 100 acres of land in Anson County , lying on Hitchcock ' s Creek , which was granted to John Crawford Sr. the 4th of April 1750 , and since purchased by the Petitioner etc .
N. C. Col . Records , Vol . 6 , p. 1084 .

John Crawford married Ann Mastin, and their son Thomas Crawford ,
(Born 1751 died 1788) married in 1775 Rebecca Covington, (born 1756
died after 1789) , dau . of John Covington. Thomas Covington' s Will
was probated in Jan . 1789 . Book 1 , p. 29 , 30 Richmond Co .
William Crawford (born 1784 died 1836) , son of Thos . Crawford Crawford and wife
Rebecca Covington (born 1756 , died after 1789) married Elizabeth Cole
in 1802 . She was born 1796 and died Oct . 3rd 1829 .
Their daughter Elmira Jane Crawford, was born Dec . 6 , 1815 and died
July 16 , 1902 . She married on Jan . 20th 1831 William Boneparte
Cole, born July 15 , 1810 and died Feb . 8th 1881 . (Both these latter
are buried in Eastside Cemetery , Rockingham , N. C.).

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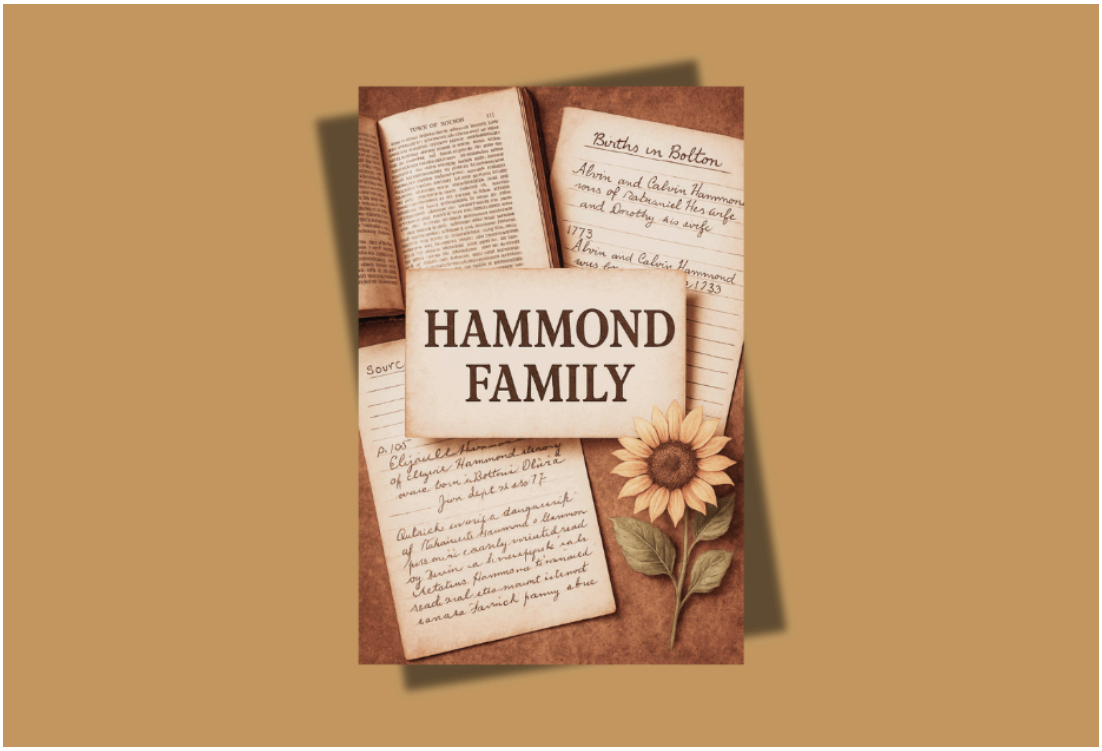
Their daughter , Elizabeth Jane Cole Cole was born Feb . 16th 1842 and died
Sept . 7 , 1891 . She married (June 17 , 1858) John Crawford Ellerbe,
born Jan . 30 , 1832 , and died July 23 , 1902 . (These also are buried
in Eastside Cemetery , Rockingham , N. C.).
Their daughter , Jennie Crawford Ellerbe was born Nov . 20th 1861 .
She married (Aug . 30 , 1883) Henry Clay Watson , b. Dec . 4 , 1854 , and
died May 7 , 1926 .
These are the parents of Jennie Watson Stewart.
For above details see N. C. Col . Records , Vol . 4 , p. 965 ; Vol . 6 ,
P. 799 , 1157 , 1170 , 1299 ; Vol . 7 , p. 342 , 655 , 656 , 690 , 698 , 722 , 692 ,
725 , 788 . Also No . 1067 , N. C. Society Colonial Dames of America .

Bolton Town Records

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
September 11, 2025
Connecticut,Hammond
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/09/11/bolton-town-records/



Do you have handwritten transcriptions tucked away in your genealogy files? While updating the information for my ancestor, **Nathaniel Hammond**, I stumbled across several references to a document labeled *Hammond.CT.007*. When I pulled it out, I discovered it was a set of handwritten notes I had made years ago from the book *Vital Records of Bolton to 1854 and Vernon to 1852*.

Because these notes were created long before I began using structured research logs, I decided it was time to bring them up to date. I added the content into the **RESEARCH NOTES** field of my database, asked ChatGPT to create a digitized version of the transcription, and attached the resulting PDF file to the source. In the process, I also located a digital copy of the original book on FamilySearch and updated my citation to reflect its online availability.

Below is the full transcription of the HAMMOND entries from this valuable resource.

> **Vital Records of Bolton to 1854 and Vernon to 1852**
> Connecticut Historical Society, c. 1909
>
> *Note: Appears events entered by families "en masse" instead of at time of event*
>
> ---
>
> **p. 2 Births in Bolton**
>
> 1775 Alvin and Calvin Hammond sons of Nathaniel Hammond and Dorothy his wife was born
>
> ---
>
> **p. 5**
>
> Dorothy Hammond daughter of Nathaniel Hammond and Elenor his wife was born June the 15th AD 1783
>
> ---
>
> **p. 7**
>
> George Hammond son of Nathaniel Hammond & Elenor his wife was born June 14th 1778
>
> Chester Hammond son of Nathaniel Hammond & Elenor his wife was born Nov 25th 1777
>
> Anna Hammond daughter of Nathaniel Hammond & Elenor his wife was born Aug 17th 1781

p. 18

Joseph Tucker and Hannah Hammond both of Bolton were to each other married September the 30th A.D. 1762

---

p. 19

Jonathan Birge and Pricila Hammond of Bolton was married March the 24th A.D. 1763

p. 57

Jason Hammond son of Nathaniel Hammond and Dorothy his wife was born February the first A.D. 1762

Candace Hammond daughter of Nathaniel Hammond and Dorothy his wife was born August 24 A.D. 1763

Elijah Hammond son of Nathaniel Hammond & Dorothy his wife was born December 8th A.D. 1764

Lemuel Hammond son of Nathaniel Hammond and Dorothy his wife was born Nov 4th A.D. 1766

Eli Hammond son of Nathaniel Hammond and Dorothy his wife was born 26 October A.D. 1768

Mary Hammond daughter of Nathaniel Hammond & Dorothy his wife was born September the 29th 1770

Allen Hammond son of Nathaniel Hammond & Dorothy his wife was born October 8th A.D. 1772

---

p. 69

1775 Dorothy wife of Nathaniel Hammond died Dec 21

---

p. 75

Nathaniel Hammond departed his life Dec 10th 1817 aged 84 years and 3 months

---

p. 76

Elijah Hammond died May 3rd 1800 aged 89 years

Mary Hammond wife of Elijah Hammond died Dec 15th 1776 aged 68

Abigail Hammond wife of Elijah Hammond died March 4th 1796 aged 66

Nathaniel Hammond son of Elijah Hammond and Mary his wife died Dec 10th 1817 aged 84 years

Dorothy Hammond wife of Nathl Hammond died Dec 21st 1775 aged 35

Eleanor Hammond wife of Nathaniel Hammond died June 8th 1822 aged 74 years

Anne Hammond daughter of Nathl Hammond and Eleanor his wife died June 29th 1794 aged 13

Lemuel Hammond son of Nathaniel Hammond and Dorothy his wife died Oct 31st 1805 aged 39

Lora Hammond wife of Lemuel Hammond died Jan 17th 1810

p. 76
Mary Talcott wife of David Talcott & Daughter of Nathaniel Hammond and Dorothy his wife died August 2d 1813

Alvan Hammond son of Nathaniel Hammond and Dorothy his wife died April 17th 1813

---

p. 77
M. Hammond Town Clerk (entered records)

---

p. 78
Elijah Hammond Jr and Martha Strong of Bolton was married together 4 Day October 1787

---

p. 79
Lemuel Hammond of Bolton and Lora Kingsbury of Harrinton were married Nov 16th 1797

George Hammond and Statira Judd (?) both of Bolton were married March 12th 1801

Chester Hammond and Fanny Goodrich of New Haven were married Oct 18th 1810

Thomas White and Dorath Hammond both of Bolton were married May 14th 1802

---

p. 81
entered by M. Hammond Town Clerk 1820
“ ” “ Manton Hammond “ “

M. Hammond – Town Clerk

p. 82 1822
p. 83 1824
p. 84 1825
p. 85 1826
p. 86 1827
p. 87 1828
p. 88 1830
p. 89 1831
p. 90 1833
p. 91 1833
p. 116 1823
p.132 1833

p. 96
Elijah Hammond 3rd son of Elijah Hammond Jr and Martha his wife was born Jenuary 23rd 1789

---

p. 97
Josiah Hammond son of Elijah Hammond Jur and Martha Hammond his wife was born March 16th 1793

---

p. 100
Julius Strong Hammond son of Elijah Hammond 2d and Martha his wife was born June 15th 1798

---

p. 99
Patte Hammond Dafter of Elijah 2d and Patte his wife was born Sept 2d 1795
(should Dafter be daughter?)

---

p. 102
Emilia Hammond Dafter to Lemuel Hammond and Lora his wife was born October 9th 1799

Allen Hammond son to Elijah Hammond and Martha his wife was born July 28th 1801

---

p. 103
George Judd Hammond son of George Hammond and Statira his wife was born Feb 14 1802

Edwin Hammond White son of Thomas White and Dorath his wife was born March 14, 1803

---

p. 104
Emma Statira Dafter of George Hammond and Statira his wife was born Aug. 26th 1803

Charles Goodrich Hammond son of Chester Hammond and Fanny his wife was born June 4th 1804

p. 105
Eliza Hammond Dafter of George Hammond and Statira his wife was born June 20th 1805

Laura Fannice Hammond Dafter of Chester Hammond and Fanny his wife was born June 21st 1806

---

p. 106
Mary Kingsbury Hammond daughter of Elijah Hammond and his wife Martha was born April 5th 1807

---

p. 107
Lemuel Alvord Hammond son of George Hammond and Statira his wife was born June 15th 1807

Nathaniel Oranton Nelson Hammond son of George Hammond and Statira his wife was born Feby 14th 1809

---

p. 112
Manton Hammond son of Nathaniel Hammond & Eleanor his wife was born May 6th 1786

Eleanor Hammond daughter of Nathaniel Hammond & Eleanor his wife was born Dec 4th 1787

Nathaniel Hammond son of Nathaniel Hammond & Eleanor his wife was born May 30th 1790

Lucy wife of Nathl Hammond was born March 11th 1788

---

p. 116
Frances Cornelia daughter of Nathaniel Hammond and Lucy his wife was born June 20th 1823

---

p. 117
George Carlos Wilcox Hammond son of Nathaniel Hammond and Lucy Hammond his wife was born October 3rd 1824

p. 118
Emily Augusta Hammond daughter of Nathl Hammond & Lucy his wife was born August 30 1825

---

p. 119
Elijah Nathaniel Hammond son of Nathaniel Hammond & Lucy his wife was born Sept 23d 1826

---

p. 120
John Manton son of Nathaniel Hammond & Lucy his wife was born June 15th 1828

---

p. 121
I hereby certify that April 15th 1838 I married Julius S. Hammond of Colchester to Emily Webster of Bolton
James Ely

Vernon Town Records
Town was set off from Bolton in Oct 1808

---

p. 155
Sarah Hammond daughter of Allen Hammond & Orra his wife was born in Vernon 19 Sept 1827

---

p. 157
May 24th 1820 married by me Eli Hammond Jr to Mary Ann Chapman, both of Vernon
William Ely

---

p. 158
This certifies that Eli Hammond was married to Sally Carpenter Oct 2nd 1822 by me Philanda Parnelo, VDM

---

p. 160
This certifies that on the evening of the following date I married Josiah Hammond and Eveline F. Nichols of the town of Vernon 30th March 1834
Dedat Brockway

p. 161
This certifies that Allen Hammond and Orra Park both of Vernon were married 27th October 1826

---

p. 163
This certifies that on the morning of the 18th of October 1828 married Isaac Sawins and Eleanor Hammond of Vernon
Dedat Brockway

---

p. 166
Eli Hammond and Percy Howard were married May 25th 1814

---

p. 169
Olivia Hammond daughter of Eli Hammond and Olivia his wife was born June 24th 1793

Anna Hammond daughter of Eli Hammond and Olivia his wife was born Feby 5th 1795

Eli Hammond son of Eli Hammond and Olivia his wife was born January 15th 1797

Nerod Hammond son of Eli Hammond & Olivia his wife was born Feb 13th 1799

Harriott Hammond dau of " " " " was born May 6th 1801

Sophia Hammond dau of " " " " b. April 25th 1803

Eleanor Hammond dau of " " " " b. Feb 14th 1806

Lemuel Olmsted Hammond son " " " " b. Feb 27th 1808

Manton Howard Hammond son " " " " b. July 25th 1808

p. 170
Joseph Churchil Hammond son of Elijah Hammond and Martha his wife was born July 26th 1809

---

p. 175
Percy Hammond daughter of Eli Hammond & Percy his wife was born July 22nd 1815 in Vernon

---

p. 177
Olivia Hammond wife of Eli Hammond died Aug 10th 1813 aged 43 years

Anna Hammond dau of Eli Hammond & Olivia his wife died July 8th 1797 aged 2 ½ yrs

Herod Hammond son of Eli Hammond & Olivia his wife died June 26th 1813 aged 4 ½ yrs

Harriett Hammond dau of Eli Hammond & Olivia his wife died July 7th 1803 aged 2 yrs

---

p. 180
I hereby certify that on the 24 of Instant I solemnized the marriage of Elijah Warner of Bolton and Martha Hammond of the same.
Vernon June 26th 1834
Charles Humphrey

---

p. 200
This may certify that Nezekiah Dewing and Sarah Hammond were Nov. 14th 1849 lawfully married by me
Andrew Sharpe Minister

---

p. 205
This certifies that Rufus L. Griswold of New Britain and Esther E. Hammond of Vernon were married by me on the 24th Dec 1851
Albert Smith Minister

---

p. 229 Marriages
Nov 8 1849 Nezekiah Dewing age 26 physician, Comf. b. Canterbury Resident Rockville married Sarah Hammond age 21 born Vernon

---

p. 238 Deaths
Oct 18 1850 Hammond male 5 mos. b. Vernon died Vernon of inflammation of brain

Working through this process reminded me of the importance of revisiting old notes. Handwritten transcriptions, while invaluable at the time they were created, can be difficult to preserve and share. By digitizing them, attaching them directly to my sources, and connecting them to easily accessible digital copies of the original records, I've ensured that this information won't be lost or overlooked. It's a small step toward keeping my research organized, accurate, and ready to share with future generations.

1896 Wells Letter

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
September 12, 2025
New York,Wells,White
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/09/12/1896-wells-letter/

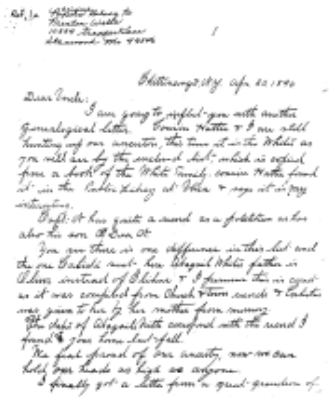
Today's find is a letter from Burdette Hall to his uncle. The original of this letter is in the papers belonging to PRston Wells of Michigan.

Chittenango, N.Y.
Apr. 20, 1896

Dear Uncle,

I am going to inflict you with another genealogical letter. Cousin Hattie & I are still hunting up our ancestors, this time it is the Whites as you will see by the enclosed list, which is copied from a book of the White family. Cousin Hattie found it in the Public Library at Utica & says it is very interesting.

Capt. W. has quite a record as a politician as has also his son Dr. Dea W.



You see there is one difference in this list and the one Calista sent. Her Abagail White's father is Oliver instead of Elihu & I presume this is correct, as it was compiled from church & town records & Calista's was given to her by her mother from memory. The date of Abagail's birth compared with the record I found at your home last fall.

We feel proud of our ancestry, now we can hold our heads as high as anyone.

I finally got a letter from a great-grandson of Thurston Wells who lives at Buffalo, as he sent me what his father David Wells Hutchinson had written down. *That was a nephew of our Nathaniel's you know.* They were Nathaniel Wells, married Mary Triston, were married near Fish House. Children were Nathaniel, George, Thurston, Lewis, Joshua, Thomas & Joel. Thurston married Ann Backus & was that Thurston mentioned in the obituary we talked about last fall. I wrote to the Postmaster at Erie inquiring for that Wells you told me about but did not get answer.

I wrote to Abiah Delano to see if she could give me any points, but she is not living. Her son Amos answered the letter, he did not say when she died. He gave the names of his mother's family, there were 9 children, 7 of which were living, most of them in Wis. Wm. G. had 6 children, 4 were living, most of them in the south. This Amos wrote that his grandfather was Dr. Wm. Wells & told of his hanging himself from a tree by a horse bridle. I replied that I understood it was Dr. Daniel, told him of the family record of Isaac Wells that his mother sent you. Of Harriet's family there is still a Daniel Beecher living.

When you come down here this summer we will talk this all over. How have you all been this winter? I have wondered if you young have had grip over its sameness. We have had a long tedious winter but it is hot enough now. It has been hard for horses, it acts as though it had started in for another dry season. We had considerable snow but it went off without rain & as yet we have not had any rain of any amt. Tonight we had a sharp thunder shower but only lasted a few minutes, it is cooler since the rain. We commenced to plow the 13th but have not sowed yet. Trees are just leaving out with us. I have peas, lettuce & radish coming up in the garden & tomatoes 6 in. high in the hot-bed.

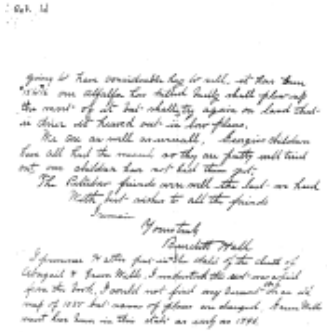
The papers state that the fruit buds were destroyed but apple & cherries bud & I do not take much stock in that. Currants are blossoming & I presume there will be some peaches. Hope you succeeded in wintering that colony of bees. About 1/4 of mine did not. I did not give mine as much attention as I should. Honey was pretty dull, mine averaged about 10¢ per lb for comb. We hit a pretty good sale for our wheat, got 50¢ for it in Feb. but have our oats yet. We are going to have considerable hay to sell, it has been *15th of April*. Our alfalfa has killed badly, shall plow up the most of it but shall try again on land that is drier, it heaved out in low places.

We are as well as usual. Slenzie's children have all had the measles so they are pretty well tired out, our children have not had them yet.

The Petibone friends were well the last we heard. With best wishes to all the friends.

Remain
Yours truly,
Burdette Hall

I presume Hattie put in the date of the death of Abagail & Isaac Wells, I understood this rec'd was copied from the book. I could not find any comment on an old map of 1835 but names of places are changed. Isaac Wells must have been in this state as early as 1796.



This letter provides a wealth of genealogical information about the Wells, White and collateral families.

Genealogical Summary from Letter of Burdette Hall (20 Apr 1896)

White Family

- **Abagail White**
  - Father listed as *Oliver White* (per church & town records)
  - Alternate father listed as *Elihu White* (per Calista, family memory)
- **Capt. White** – noted as having a political record.
- **Dr. Dea White** – son of Capt. White, also notable.

Wells Family

- **Nathaniel Wells**
  - Married: **Mary Triston**
  - Marriage location: near *Fish House* (likely New York)
  - Children (as listed):
    - Nathaniel
    - George
    - Thurston (married Ann Backus)
    - Lewis
    - Joshua
    - Thomas
    - Joel
- **Thurston Wells**
  - Residence: *Buffalo, N.Y.* (descendant mentioned in 1896)
  - Married: **Ann Backus**
  - Mentioned in obituary referred to in the letter.
- **David Wells Hutchinson**
  - Recorded family notes (used as a source of information).
- **Abiah Delano**
  - Deceased before 1896.
  - Her son **Amos Delano** replied to correspondence.
- **Wm. G. Wells**
  - Had 6 children; 4 still living in the South as of 1896.
- **Dr. Wm. Wells**
  - Reportedly hanged himself from a tree with a horse bridle (per Amos Delano).
- **Dr. Daniel Wells**
  - Possible confusion with Dr. Wm. Wells as the one who hanged himself.
- **Isaac Wells**
  - Death date recorded (possibly by Cousin Hattie).
  - In the state as early as **1796**.
- **Harriet Wells**
  - Her family included **Daniel Beecher**, still living in 1896.

Beecher Family

- **Daniel Beecher** – living in 1896, part of Harriet Wells's family line.

Dates

- **April 20, 1896** – Letter written.
- **1796** – Isaac Wells noted in the state by this date.
- **1835** – Reference to an old map, showing place names.
- **Fall 1895** – Burdette mentions checking family records then.

Locations

- **Chittenango, N.Y.** – Location of Burdette Hall, letter written.
- **Utica, N.Y.** – Public Library, where Cousin Hattie found White family records.
- **Buffalo, N.Y.** – Residence of a descendant of Thurston Wells.
- **Fish House** – Place of Nathaniel Wells & Mary Triston's marriage.
- **Erie** – Burdette wrote to the Postmaster there regarding the Wells family.
- **Wisconsin** – Home of several Wells descendants (children of Wm. G. Wells).
- **Southern U.S.** – Residence of some Wells descendants.

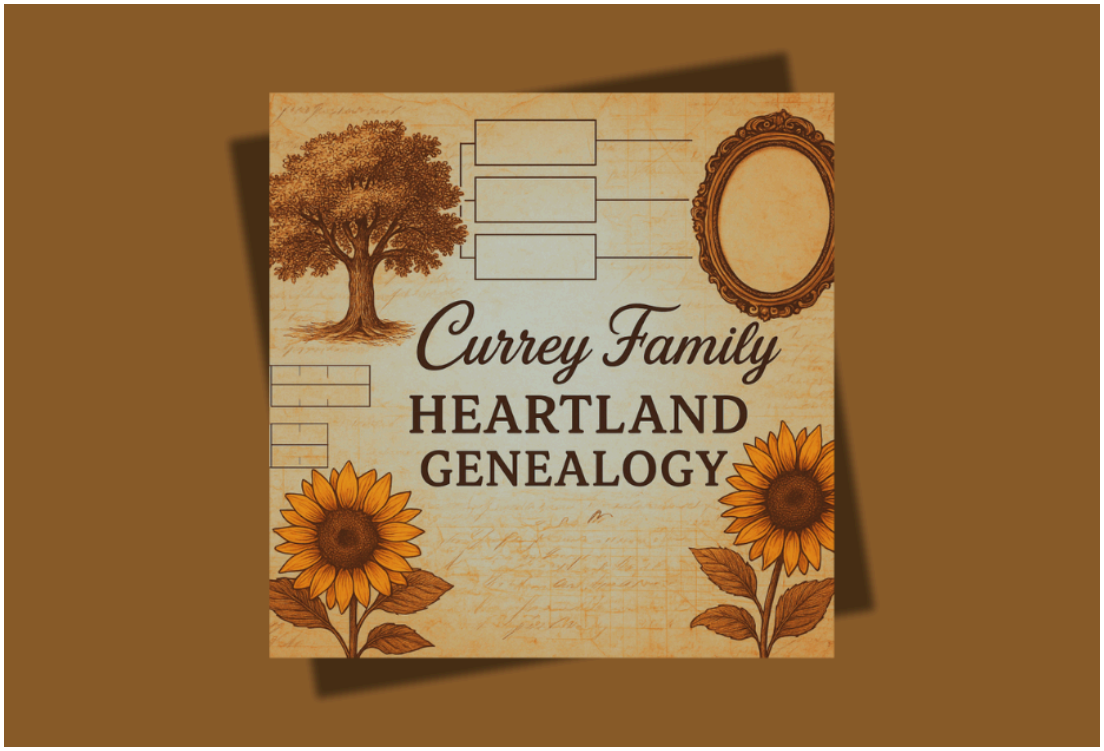
Observations

- There is clear **disagreement in family records** about Abagail White's father (Oliver vs. Elihu).
- Evidence suggests that **Isaac Wells was present in the state as early as 1796**, which could be a key migration clue.
- **Multiple family branches** were living in New York, Wisconsin, and the South by 1896.
- The Wells family had a history of **physicians (Dr. Wm. Wells, Dr. Daniel Wells)** and **suicide is noted** in family tradition.

According to the FamilySearch tree, Burdette Hall, the author of this 1896 letter, would be my cousin. His mother, **Lucinda Wells**, was the sister of my ancestor **Thurston Kennedy Wells**. In addition, Burdette's father, **Henry Patrick Hall**, was the brother of **Sarah Hall**, the first wife of Thurston Kennedy Wells.

ABC Biography: Myrtle Irene Currey

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
September 13, 2025
Currey,Kansas
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/09/13/abc-biography-myrtle-irene-currey/



The Life of Myrtle Irene Currey

Early Years in Kansas

Myrtle Irene Currey was born on January 11, 1899, in Pomeroy, Wyandotte County, Kansas. She was the daughter of Hiram M. Currey and grew up in eastern Kansas. By June 1900, at only a year old, she was living with her family in Delaware Township, Leavenworth County. The 1900 census recorded her as “Myrtle Carrey,” a one-year-old white female born in Kansas.

In 1905, Myrtle’s family was enumerated in the Kansas state census at Lansing, Leavenworth County, where she appeared as a six-year-old “Myrtle Curry.” Five years later, in 1910, the U.S. census listed her in Rooks County, Kansas, age eleven, living with her parents and siblings.

Life in Missouri

By her teenage years, Myrtle lived with her aunt, Elizabeth Jane (Currey) Rigby, at 3816 Paseo in Kansas City, Missouri, in 1914. Two years later, in 1916, she was living at 2808 Peery Avenue, Kansas City, and then at 1225 E. 23rd in North Kansas City. These years in Missouri positioned Myrtle to begin her adult working life.

Marriage to Claud E. Gaskill

Myrtle married **Claud Everett Gaskill** on March 24, 1917, in Dodge City, Kansas. Claud, born September 4, 1890, in Wray, Colorado, worked as a carpenter and later as an employee of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad.

The couple settled in Dodge City, where Myrtle began working for Southwestern Bell. The 1920 census shows her as “Myrtle Gaskil,” age twenty-one, with Claud listed as a carpenter. By 1925, the Kansas state census recorded her as “Myrtle Gaskell,” age twenty-six.

Family Life

Myrtle and Claud raised four daughters in Dodge City:

- **Dorothy Irene Gaskill** (1918–1992), who lived her entire life in Dodge City.
- **Billie Louise Gaskill** (1919–1966), who married twice and died in Kansas City.
- **Marjorie May Gaskill** (1921–1999), who married Gerald Kerr and later Nathan Peters.
- **Ruth Jean Gaskill** (1925–1966), who married John Elmer Foskuhl and died in Missouri.

The family lived at 510½ Avenue G in Dodge City in 1930. Myrtle, then thirty-two and divorced, was working as a hotel maid.

Second Marriage to Everett Donald Jones

On June 1, 1936, Myrtle married **Everett Donald Jones** in Garden City, Kansas. Don, born January 28, 1903, in Lyon County, Kansas, worked in service stations and later as a transport driver. By the 1940 census, Myrtle was listed as a telephone operator and Don as a filling station worker.

The couple remained lifelong residents of Dodge City, living at 310 Kirk Street through the 1950s and 1960s. Myrtle was active in the First Missionary Church and the Bell Telephone Employee Association.

Later Years and Family Connections

Myrtle attended a Currey family reunion in Sedona, Arizona, in 1964, reconnecting with her siblings and extended family. By this time, she had spent nearly five decades in Dodge City, balancing family life with her career at Southwestern Bell.

Her later years were marked by family joys and sorrows. Two of her daughters—Billie and Ruth—predeceased her in the 1960s. Yet she lived to see many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Death and Legacy

Myrtle Irene (Currey) Gaskill Jones passed away on July 23, 1970, at age seventy-one, at the Good Samaritan Home in Dodge City. Her obituary described her as a longtime resident, faithful church member, and dedicated Southwestern Bell employee.

She was survived by her husband, Donald Jones; daughters Dorothy Gaskill and Marjorie Peters; two brothers, Ernest and Herbert Currey; three sisters, Mrs. Joe Walters, Mrs. Alma Taylor, and Mrs. Crawford; thirteen grandchildren; and fifteen great-grandchildren. She was buried at **Maple Grove Cemetery** in Dodge City on July 25, 1970.

Her first husband, Claud Gaskill, had died in 1962 and was also buried at Maple Grove. Her second husband, Don Jones, passed away shortly after her in August 1970 and rests beside her.

https://youtube.com/watch?v=w8wz7lOVN5o

Saturday Night Genealogy Fun

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
September 14, 2025
SaturdayNightGenealogyFun
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/09/14/saturday-night-genealogy-fun-170/

Calling all Genea-Musings Fans:

It's Saturday Night again –

Time for some more Genealogy Fun!!

Your mission, should you decide to accept it (cue the Mission Impossible! music) is to:

1) Check out Top Five Surprises by D.M. Debacker on the Gathering Leaves blog.

I don't know that I would call mine "surprises" in the traditional sense. Instead, they fall into the category of the unexpected or the downright illogical—findings that challenged what I thought I knew about my family's past.

#1 – DNA Doesn't Match the Records

The yDNA time tree for my brother's tests indicates that I am **not closely related to the other Crawford lines** found in Garrard County, Kentucky, before 1800. This is puzzling because not only do my ancestors appear in Garrard County alongside the James and John Crawford families, but my line also follows the same migration path as John Crawford's descendants for more than 150 years.

#2 – A Loyalist Among Patriots

Many branches of my family reach back to colonial America, and I've discovered quite a few patriots in the tree. That's why I was surprised to learn that my Harding line followed a very different path. My ancestor William Harding was a **Loyalist who went from New York to New Brunswick**, a stark contrast to his revolutionary contemporaries.

#3 – From Southern Roots to Union Service

My Briles ancestors were part of the Germanna colony in Virginia before moving to North Carolina. Many descendants of Conrad Briles (or Broyles) stayed in North Carolina and later fought for the Confederacy. Since my ancestor Alexander Briles migrated to Kansas before 1860, I assumed he came to support Kansas becoming a slave state. Instead, I discovered he **served in the Kansas militia on the Union side**, fighting to prevent General Price's invasion. Even more surprising, his son Noah Washington Briles (my 2nd great-grandfather) served with Company I, 1st Regiment of the Iowa Cavalry—again, for the Union.

#4 – Dutch Roots on Both Sides of the Family

When I traveled to New York City for a library conference, I knew my husband's Sebring ancestors traced back to the Dutch settlement of Long Island. What I didn't expect was that **I also have ancestors from the same Dutch community**. I believe Hiram M. Currey (1835–1901) was the grandson of Peter Harris and Rachel VanArsdale, connecting me to the Harris/VanArsdale, Demarest, Voorhees, and Banta families. This also suggests that my Ostrander line may tie back to the Dutch settlement as well.

#5 – The Welsh (and Icelandic?) Mystery

As a child, I asked my mother where our family came from. She told me that some of her ancestors were from Wales. While my DNA results show about 3% Welsh ancestry on my dad's side, I've found no documentary evidence of Welsh ancestors in either my dand's or my mother'ls lines. Even more puzzling, my mother and both of my brothers show **Icelandic origins** in their reports—yet I have found no genealogical link to Iceland so far.

Closing Thoughts

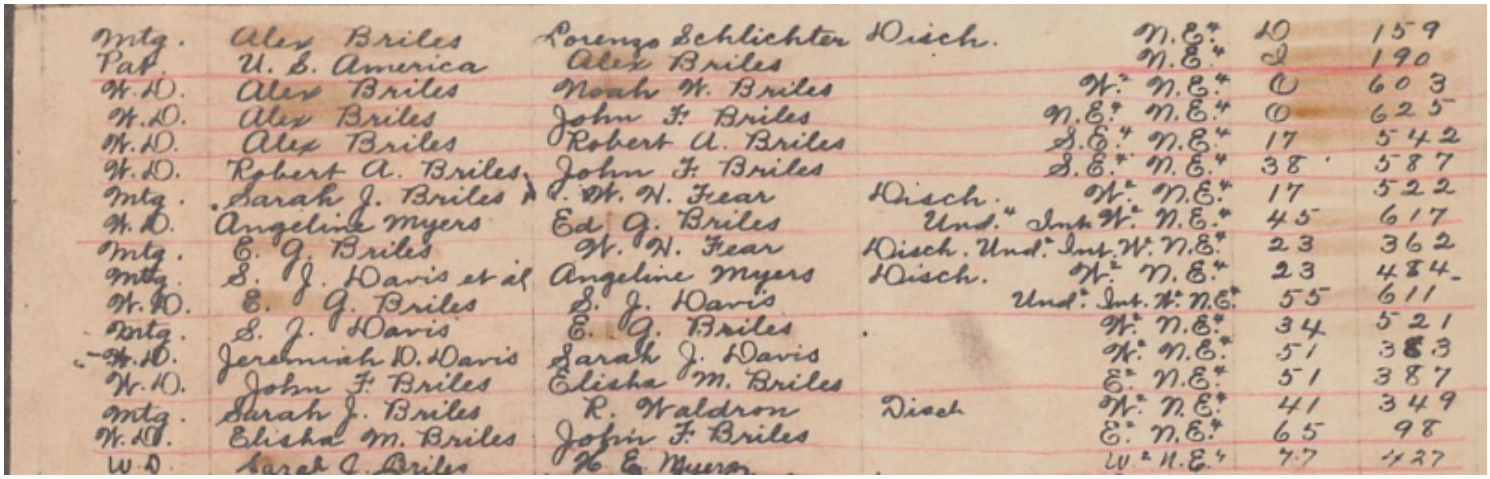
Genealogy is full of twists and turns. Sometimes our research confirms family stories; other times it challenges what we thought we knew. These five discoveries have reminded me to stay open to the unexpected—and to let DNA, migration trails, and historical context lead me to new questions. After all, the "illogical" paths often turn out to be the most fascinating parts of the journey.

Monday's Diggings

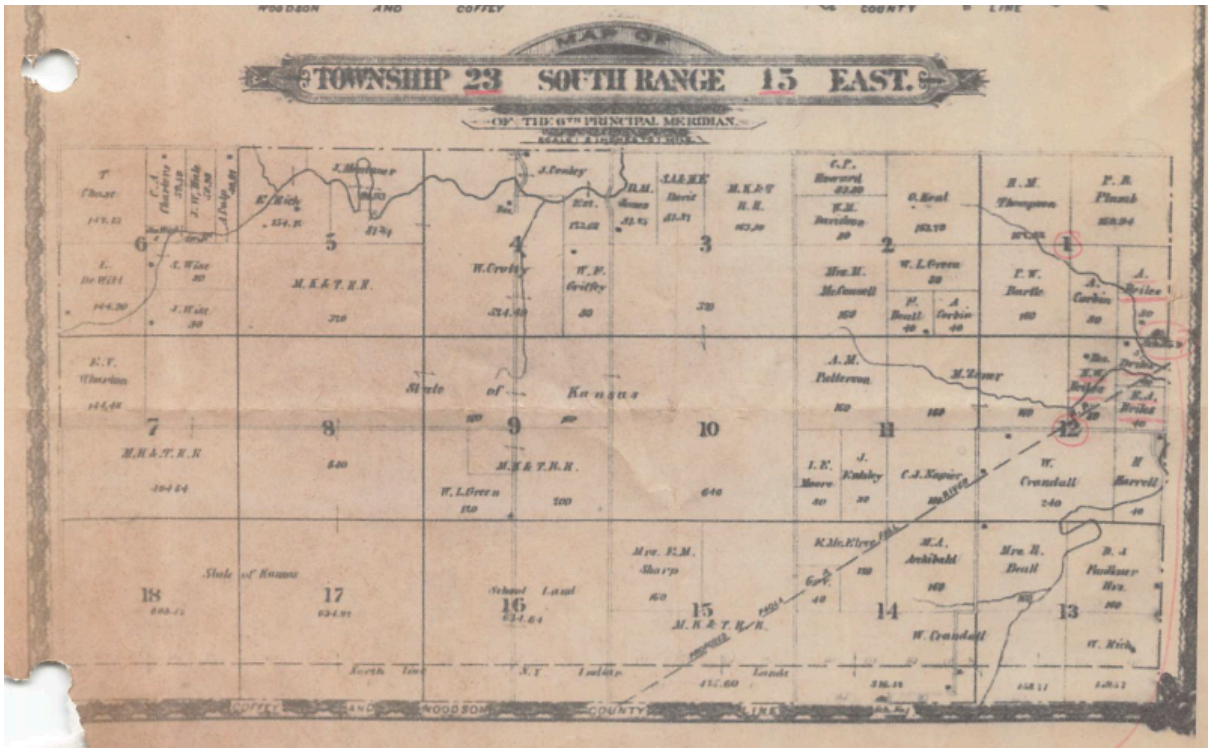
By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
September 15, 2025
Briles,Coffey County Kansas,Land Records
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/09/15/mondays-diggings-13/

Have you ever used—or even seen—a Range Index for a section of land? When I began my genealogy journey with Kansas records, I quickly discovered how valuable these books can be. A Range Index takes a single section of land and traces every recorded transaction for that land over time. With just a glance, they provide a roadmap to the actual deeds. Unfortunately, not every Kansas county courthouse has preserved these indexes.

My ancestor, Alexander Briles, was the original landowner of the Northeast Quarter of Section 12, Township 23 South, Range 15. Below is an image of the original Range Index page along with my transcription of the first entries.


Mtg. Alex Briles Lorenzo Schlichter Disch. N.E.¼ 10 159
Pat. U. S. America Alex Briles N.E.¼ 2 190
W.D. Alex Briles Noah W. Briles W.½ N.E.¼ 0 603
W.D. Alex Briles John F. Briles N.E.¼ N.E.¼ 0 625
W.D. Alex Briles Robert A. Briles S.E.¼ N.E.¼ 17 542
W.D. Robert A. Briles John F. Briles S.E.¼ N.E.¼ 38 587
Mtg. Sarah J. Briles S. W. N. Fear Disch. W.½ N.E.¼ 17 522
W.D. Angeline Myers Ed G. Briles Und.¼ Int. W.½ N.E.¼ 45 617
Mtg. E. G. Briles W. N. Fear Disch. Und.¼ Int. W.½ N.E.¼ 23 362
Mtg. S. J. Davis et al Angeline Myers Disch. W.½ N.E.¼ 23 484
W.D. E. G. Briles S. J. Davis Und.¼ Int. W.½ N.E.¼ 55 611
Mtg. S. J. Davis E. G. Briles W.½ N.E.¼ 34 521
W.D. Jeremiah D. Davis Sarah J. Davis W.½ N.E.¼ 51 383
W.D. John F. Briles Elisha M. Briles E.½ N.E.¼ 51 387
Mtg. Sarah J. Briles R. Waldron Disch W.½ N.E.¼ 41 349
W.D. Elisha M. Briles John F. Briles E.½ N.E.¼ 65 98
W.D. Sarah J. Briles H. E. Myers W.½ N.E.¼ 77 427

	Instrument	Name of Grantor	Name of Grantee	Description	Property	Volume (no.)	Page
	Mtg.	Alex Briles	Lorenzo Schlichter Disch.	Disch	N.E. 4	D	159
	Pat.	U. S. America	Alex Briles		N.E. 4	I	190
	W. D.	Alex Briles	Noah W. Briles		W2 NE4	O	603
	W. D.	Alex Briles	John F. Briles		NE4 NE4	O	625
	W. D.	Alex Briles	Robert A. Briles		SE4 NE4	17	542
	W. D.	Robert A. Briles	John F. Briles		SE4 NE4	38	587
	Mtg.	Sarah J. Briles	Wm. H. Fear	Disch	W2 NE4	17	522
	W. D.	Angeline Myers	Ed. G. Briles	Und 4 Int	W2 NE4	45	617
0	Mtg.	E. G. Briles	W. H. Fear	Disch Und Int	W2 NE4	23	362
1	mtg	S. J. Davis et al	Angeline Myers	Dish	W2 NE4	23	484
2	W. D.	E. G. Briles	S. J. Davis	Und 2	W2 NE4	55	611
3	mtg	S. J. Davis	E. G. Briles		W2 NE4	34	521
4	W.D.	Jeremiah D. Davis	Sarah J. Davis		W2 NE4	51	383
5	W. D.	John F. Briles	Elisha M. Briles		E2 NE4	51	387
6	mtg	Sarah J. Briles	R. Waldron	Disch	W2 NE4	41	349
7	W. D.	Elisha M. Briles	John F. Briles		E2 NE4	65	98
8	W. D.	Sarah J. Briles	H. E. Myers		W2 NE4	77	127



Range Indexes may not be flashy, but for genealogists and local historians they are pure gold. By following the trail of entries, we can see not only when land changed hands but also which families, neighbors, and institutions played a role in the community's growth. For me, this page connects directly to Alexander Briles and his descendants, tying family history to the very ground they farmed. If your courthouse has Range Indexes, take time to explore them—you never know what family stories might surface from those columns of names and numbers.

RootsMagic 11

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
September 16, 2025
RootsMagic
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/09/16/rootsmagic-11/

Somehow I was caught unawares! RootsMagic just released a new version of their genealogy software.

https://youtube.com/watch?v=y-kShX6chiU

While I have not figured out the new features, I have purchased the software, converted my file and started using it.

As a former school technology coordinator, I have strong convictions about keeping software current. Knowing that others might question the need to upgrade to a newer version, I asked ChatGPT "what are some reasong for upgrading software." The short answer was

upgrading helps keep your system secure, reliable, and compatible, while also giving you access to new tools and improved performance.

Crawford Land Partition

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
September 17, 2025
Crawford
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/09/17/crawford-land-partition/

Do you use FamilySearch's new full-text search feature? If so, you may have noticed that not all records can be accessed from home. From past experience, I knew that most Indiana deeds are restricted to viewing at an affiliate library or a Family History Center. That limitation prompted a quick trip to the Seneca Free Library, one of FamilySearch's affiliate libraries.

During that visit, I uncovered several valuable documents connected to my third great-grandfather, Nelson G. Crawford. Among them was an 1868 court case in which Martha Crawford petitioned for the partition of his land. This record not only named Nelson's heirs but also revealed the married surnames of two daughters and even documented a grandson—details that add both clarity and richness to the Crawford family story.

> CIRCUIT COURT . 10 Day TERM , 1863
> page 225
> Martha Crawford
> vs
> Mary Crawford et al
> Come the parties by their attorneys and
> also come
> the commissioners herein and are sworn in
> Open Court to faithfully and impartially discharge
> the duties of their trusts in making partition of the lands
> of which Nelson G Crawford died seized among the heirs
> of said decedent and said commissioners afterwards submit
> and file their report duly executed and acknowledge the
> execution thereof in open Court and the court examine
> and compare the same and being satisfied that the
> same has been regular do approve and confirm the same and order
> that the same be spread of record on the order Book of this Court and
> said report reads as follows to wit
> State of Indiana Warren Circuit Court
> Warren County April Term 1868
> Martha Crawford
> vS Partition
> James H Crawford et al
> To the Hon John M Cowan Judge of said Court

The undersigned who were appointed commissioners
at the present term to make partition of the lands
lying and being in Warren County Indiana of which
Nelson G Crawford deed seized towit : The North West
quarter of section Eight (8) 160 acres also : The East half
of the North East quarter of section Seven (7) 80 acres
and also 32 acres of land in said County in
Section Eight and being the north East quarter
of the South West quarter of said section except
Eight (8) acres of land out of the South East Corner
and cut off from said 40 acre tract by the road
leading from Williamsport to the old town of
West Lebanon in said County of Warren and
known as the Danville roods the said 8 acres
cut off all lying on the South side of said Road and
the said 32 acres all lying on the north side of said
rood all of said three tracts 160 acres 80 acres &
32 acres lying & being in township (21) twenty one
North of Range Eight (8) west among the widow and heirs
at law of said decedent the said plaintiff and
defendants to wit Martha Crawford widow and his
children James H Crawford Marion Crawford Mary E. Briggs
Sarah A Woodard Celia C Crawford & the heirs of William
Crawford who was a son of Nelson G Crawford
Deceased to wit : Mary E Crawford said Williams Widow
& William C Crawford said Williams son & Grandson

page 196
6 Day
April 25 1868
ORDER BOOK OF THE WARREN

Crawford & since intermaried with Harrison Woodward
who is now deceased & Celia C Crawford Mary
E Crawford Widow of William C Crawford a son of
said decedent who died in 1860 and as his grand
Children William C Crawford who was a son of William
C Crawford sr deceased
On motion it is also proven to the Court that said
Nelson G Crawford died seized of the following lands at
the time of his death in Warren County , Indiana to wit
the North West quarter of section Eight 160 acres the East
half of the North East quarter of section seven 80 acres
and also the following described land towit :
32 acres of land lying and being in Warren
County Indiana and in said section eight
Township twenty one Range eight west and
being the North East quarter of the South West quarter
of said section except eight acres of land out of
the South East corner and cut off from said 40
acres tract by the road leading from Williamsport
to the old town of West Lebanon in said County
and known as the Danville Road the said 8 acres
cut off all lying on the South side of said Road
& the said 32 acres all lying on the North side of
said Road all of said three tracts of land lying &
being in township (21) Twenty one North of Range
eight west
And the Court further find that by the Last Will & Testam
ent of said decedent that among other
things & he devised to the said Martha Crawford his widow
One third of all said Real Estate in fee simple and
also the life estate in and to the remaining two
thirds of said real estate the Court therefore find that
said Martha Crawford widow is entitled to the one third
of said lands in fee simple and also a life estate in
& to the remaining two thirds of said lands
And the Court further find that James H Crawford
Marion Crawford Mary E Briggs Sarah A Woodard & Celia
C Crawford are each entitled to the equal undivided

One Sixth of two thirds of said land in fee simple subj
ect to the widows life estate in and to said land
And the Court further find that Mary E Crawford widow
of the said William C Crawford Sr Deceased and William
C Crawford Jr are each entitled to the equal undivided
one half of one sixth of two thirds of said lands in fee
simple subject to the widow Martha Crawfords life estate
in and to said lands
The Court therefore Order Adjudge & decree that

page 197
CIRCUIT COURT . April
TERM , 1868

partition be made of said lands and by assigning
and setting over to Martha Crawford Widow the one third
of said lands
And that the one sixth of two
thirds be set off and ass
igned to the aforesaid heirs to wit James H Crawford Marion
Crawford Mary E Briggs Sarah Woodward & Celia C
Crawford charged with the life estate of Martha Crawford aforesaid
And that the one half of one sixth of two thirds of said
lands be assigned & set off to each of the aforesaid
heirs to wit : Mary E Crawford
& William C Crawford subject
to the life estate of said Martha Crawford
And the court on motion appoint Zebulon Foster
Anthony Swisher & Isaiah Sharp Commissioners to
make partition in accordance with this decree
And the Court order a certified copy of decree to issue
and that the commissioners report at this term

Finding this 1868 partition record reinforced for me the value of making that extra trip to an affiliate library. While full-text search is an incredible tool for discovery, access restrictions can still limit what we can view from home. By taking advantage of onsite resources, I was able to uncover not only the names of Nelson G. Crawford's heirs but also key details that help connect the generations. It's a reminder that persistence—and sometimes a short drive—can yield the kind of documentation that turns a family story into a well-supported genealogy.

Confirming Relationships

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
September 18, 2025
Crawford,Warren County
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/09/18/confirming-relationships/

Have you ever faced the challenge of proving a lineage when a child was born after his father's death? That is the case with my fourth cousin's ancestor, William Clay Crawford. He was born on 30 January 1861 in Warren County, Indiana—nearly three months after the death of his presumed father, William C. Crawford, who passed away on 6 November 1860.

William Clay's obituary confirms his birth date and notes that he was left an orphan at an early age. While the probate file of his father exists, it is dated before William Clay's birth and therefore cannot, on its own, establish the relationship.

Fortunately, another court record bridges this gap. It specifically identifies William C. Crawford as the son of Marcy E. Crawford, widow of the late William C. Crawford, and the grandson of Nelson Crawford—providing the crucial link needed to prove the parentage.

> Warren County Indiana
> Court Order Books
>
> 6 May 1868
> page 195 -196
>
> "Warren, Indiana, United States records," images, FamilySearch (https://http://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSN4-99MV-2?view=fullText : Sep 8, 2025), image 248 of 802; Indiana. Circuit Court (Warren County).
> Image Group Number: 008071909
>
> Warren County Circuit Court Civil Order Book, 1827-1920
> Order books, v. 8 (from p. 304) 1866-1867 Order Books v. 9-10 1867-1872
>
> 195
> Martha Crawford
> vs
> JamesH Crawford et al
> Comes the Plaintiff by Park & Miller her attorneys
> and also comes the adult defendants herein and on
> motion file their appearance in writing to the action
> and waive the issue and service of process herein
> and consent to the Jurisdiction of the Court and
> said Waiver of process reads as follows to wit (insert)

And on motion it is shown to the court by summons filed
that said defendants Mary E William C & Calia C Crawford
have each been duly served with process herein ten
days prior to the first day of this term of this Court
On motion it is suggested that two of said defendants
are infants under the age of twenty one years . On motion
the Court appoint Jesse Harper an attorney at Law of
this Court Guardian adlitem for said infant defend-
ants and said Guardian now on motion files
his answer herein as follows to wit (insert)
On motion and by order of the Court said adult
defendants are now these times
solemnly called come not but so to do wholly fail and make
default
This cause is therefore on motion set down for final +
hearing and decree upon Petition Consent & waiver
Summons & Service thereof default and the Oral
and documentary evidence adduced and it is
now proven to the Court that Nelson G Crawford
died in 1864 leaving
him surviving as his heirs at
Law Martha Crawford Widow and as his children
and heirs James H Crawford Marion Crawford
Mary E Briggs Sarah A Woodard formily Sarah A

page 196

196
6 Day .
April 25 1868
Crawford & since intermaried with Harrison Woodward
who is now deceased & Celia C Crawford Mary
E Crawford Widow of William C Crawford a son of
said decedent who died in 1860 and as his grand
Children William C Crawford who was a son of William
C Crawford Sr deceased
On motion it is also proven to the Court that said
Nelson G Crawford died seized of the following lands at
the time of his death in Warren County , Indiana to wit
the North West quarter of section Eight 160 acres the East
half of the North East quarter of section seven 80 acres
and also the following described land towit :
32 acres of land lying and being in Warren
County Indiana and in said section eight
Township twenty one Range eight west and
being the North East quarter of the South West quarter
of said section except eight acres of land out of
the South East corner and cut off from said 40
acres tract by the road leading from Williamsport
to the old town of West Lebanon in said County
and known as the Danville Road the said 8 acres
cut off all lying on the South side of said Road
& the said 32 acres all lying on the North side of
said Road all of said three tracts of land lying &
being in township (21) Twenty one North of Range
eight west
And the Court further find that by the Last Will & Testam
ent of said decedent that among other
things he devised to the said Martha Crawford his widow
One third of all said Real Estate in fee simple and
also the life estate in and to the remaining two
thirds of said real estate the Court therefore find that
said Martha Crawford widow is entitled to the one third
of said lands in fee simple and also a life estate in
& to the remaining two thirds of said lands
And the Court further find that James H Crawford
Marion Crawford Mary E Briggs Sarah A Woodard Celia
C Crawford are each entitled to the equal undivided
One Sixth of two thirds of said land in fee
simple duly subj

ect to the widows life estate in and to said land
And the Court further find that Mary E Crawford widow
of the said William C Crawford Sr Deceased and William
C Crawford JR are each entitled to the equal undivided
one half of one sixth of two thirds of said lands in fee
simple subject to the widow Martha Crawfords life estate
in and to said lands
The Court therefore Order Adjudge & decree that

page 197
partition be made of said lands and by assigning
and setting over to Martha Crawford Widow the one third
of said lands
And that the one sixth of two
thirds be set off and ass
igned to each of the aforesaid heirs to wit James H Crawford Marion
Crawford Mary E Briggs Sarah A Woodward & Celia C
Crawford charged with the life estate of Martha Crawford aforesaid
And that the one half of one sixth of two thirds of said
lands be assigned & set off to each of the aforesaid
heirs to wit : Mary E Crawford & William C Crawford subject
to the life estate of said Martha Crawford
And the Court on motion appoint Zebulon FOster
Anthony Swisher & Isaiah Sharp Commissioniers to
make prtition in accrodance with this decree
and the Court order a certified copy of decree to issue
and that the commissioners report at this term

This court record not only confirms William Clay Crawford's parentage but also highlights the importance of looking beyond the obvious probate or estate files when seeking proof of relationships. In cases where a child was born after the father's death, traditional records may leave gaps. Supplementary documents—like guardianship proceedings or other court actions—can provide the missing connections that secure a family's place in the lineage. For researchers of the Crawford family, this record strengthens the evidence linking William Clay Crawford to his father, William C. Crawford, and his grandfather, Nelson Crawford.

Friday Find

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
September 19, 2025
New York,Wells
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/09/19/friday-find-92/

Do you have handwritten family group sheets tucked away in your genealogy files? This week's Friday Find is a fascinating set of such records documenting the families of Nathaniel, Green, and Ozias Wells. Each page focuses on one family line and is written in a style reminiscent of Bible records, with names, birthdates, marriages, and deaths carefully noted. Unfortunately, the documents don't reveal their original source, leaving us to wonder who compiled them and where the information first appeared.

Nathaniel Wells' Family

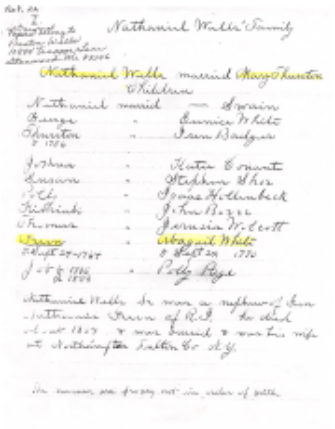
Nathaniel Wells married **Mary Thurston**

Children

- Nathaniel married — Swain
- George married — Eunice White
- Thornton (b. 1756) married — Irene Badger
- Joshua married — Katie Conant
- Susan married — Stephen Shoe
- Polly married — Isaac Hollenbeck
- Kissiah married — John Bovee
- Thomas married — Jerusia Wolcott
- Green married — **Abagail White** (b. Sept 24, 1770)
  - b. Sept 24, 1764
- Job married — Polly Page
  - b. 1780
  - d. 1853
  -

Nathaniel Wells Sr. was a nephew of Gen. Nathanael Green of R.I. He died about 1804 & was buried & was his wife at Northampton, Fulton Co., N.Y.

The names are probably not in order of birth.



page 2

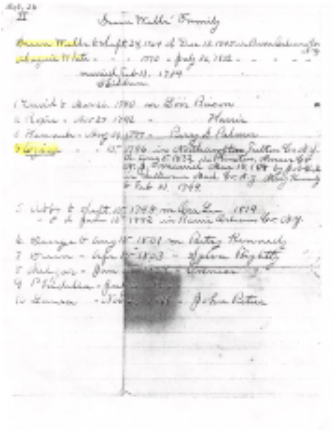
Green Wells' Family

Green Wells b. Sept 24, 1764 d. Dec. 13, 1845 in Barre, Orleans Co., N.Y.
Abigail White b. 1770 d. July 30, 1832

Married Feb. 11, 1789

Children

1. David b. Mar 26, 1790 m. Lois Bacon
2. Rosia b. Nov 27, 1792 m. ___ Harris
3. Hannah b. May 30, 1794 m. Perry J. Palmer
4. Ozias b. Nov 15, 1796 in Northampton, Fulton Co., N.Y.
   d. Aug 5, 1832 in Princetown, Mercer Co., N.J.
   m. Mar 18, 1818 by J.P. Wells in Sullivan, Mad. Co., N.Y. to Mary Kennedy
   b. Feb 21, 1799
5. Abby b. Sept 15, 1798 m. Ora Lee 1819
   d. June 15, 1882 in Barre, Orleans Co., N.Y.
6. George b. Aug 18, 1801 m. Betzy Kennedy
7. Fream b. Apr 15, 1803 m. Sylvia Bighrly
8. Melzar b. Jan 5, 1804 m. Eunice ___
9. Philinda b. Jan 6, 1806
10. Laura b. Nov 20, 1811 m. John Peters



page 3

Ozias Wells' Family

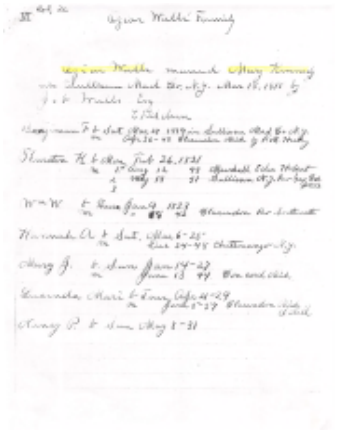
Ozias Wells married **Mary Kennedy** in Sullivan, Mad. Co., N.Y. Mar 18, 1818 by J.P. Wells, Esq.

Children

1. Benjamin T. b. Sat. Mar 27, 1819 in Sullivan, Mad. Co., N.Y.
   m. Apr 30, '48 Clarendon, Mich. by P.M. Holby
2. Thurston K. b. Mon. Feb 26, 1821
   m. 1st Aug 12, '48 Marshall, Eder Hobart

m. 2nd May 18, ’51 Sullivan, N.Y. Rev. Jno. [Col\ — G[rove]
m. 3rd ___

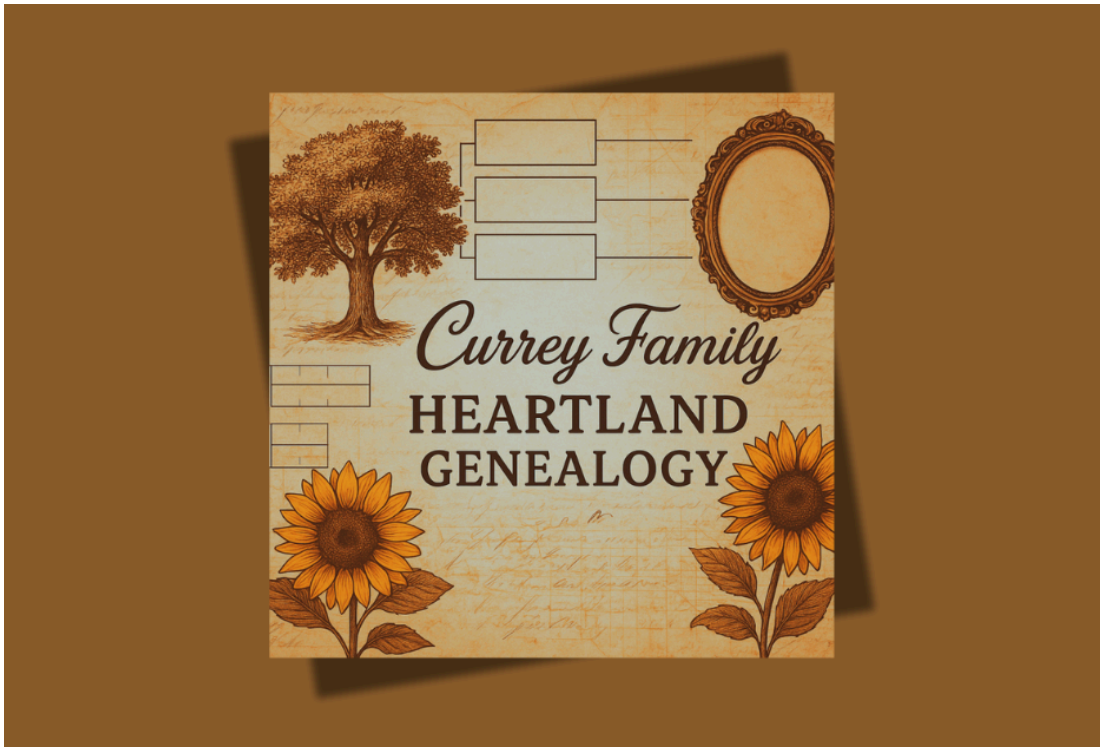
3. Wm. W. b. Thurs. Jan 9, 1823
   m. ___ ’42 Clarendon, Rev. Southworth
4. Hannah A. b. Sat. Mar 6, ’25
   m. Dec 24, ’48 Chittenango, N.Y.
5. Mary J. b. Sun Jan 14, ’27
   m. June 13, ’44 Concord, Mich.
6. Lucinda Maria b. Twin Apr 21, ’29
   m. June 5, ’57 Clarendon, Mich. Odill
7. Nancy P. b. Sun May 8, ’31



As with many handwritten records, these Wells family sheets raise almost as many questions as they answer. While they preserve valuable names, dates, and connections, the absence of an identified source means we must treat them with caution and look for corroborating evidence in other records. Still, they serve as an important reminder of the treasures we can find in unexpected corners of our files—and of the value in revisiting old notes with fresh eyes.

ABC Biography: Mary Lela (Currey) Walters

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
September 20, 2025
ABC Biography,Currey
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/09/20/abc-biography-mary-lela-currey-walters/



Early Life

Mary Lela Currey was born on 17 August 1901 in Lansing, Leavenworth County, Kansas, to **Hiram Miles Currey** and **Winifred Mae "Winnie" Hutchinson**. She grew up in Kansas with her siblings and appears in both the 1905 Kansas State Census and the 1910 U.S. Census as a young child in the household.

By 1916, Mary graduated from **Horace Mann School in Kansas City, Missouri**, an achievement noted in the *Kansas City Times*.

Marriage and Family

On 2 February 1919, at just 17 years old, Mary married **Joseph Louis Walters** in Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri.

Joseph was born on 4 March 1897 in Garfield, Benton County, Arkansas, and later worked as a carpenter. He served briefly in the U.S. Army during World War I, enlisting in September 1918 and being discharged in January 1919.

Together, Mary and Joseph raised several children:

1. **Louis Elwyn Walters** – born 18 November 1919 in North Kansas City, Missouri; married Louise Roach in 1940; died 6 June 1978.
2. **Claude Arnold Walters** – born 27 October 1921 in North Kansas City, Missouri; married Janet B. Perkow in 1942; served in World War II and died in combat on 8 February 1945 in the Rhine Valley.
3. **Julia Walters** – born about 1924 in Kansas; died before 1930 at a young age, likely the "baby" buried in Maple Grove Cemetery in Dodge City.
4. **Doral LaVerne Walters** – born 18 September 1925 in Dodge City; died one month later on 16 October 1925, buried at Maple Grove Cemetery.

Residences and Daily Life

Mary and Joseph moved frequently in their early years together. In 1925, the family was living in **Garden City, Kansas**. By 1930, they had relocated to **North Kansas City, Missouri**, and by 1940 they were living at **2607 Prairie Avenue, Chicago, Illinois**.

During the 1960s, Mary lived in **Round Lake, Illinois**, where she was active in her community and a member of the **First Baptist Church of Libertyville**. In 1964, she attended a Currey family reunion in Sedona, Arizona.

Later Years and Passing

Mary passed away on 8 December 1977 at **Crown Manor Nursing Home in Zion, Lake County, Illinois**, at the age of 76. Her obituary in the *Waukegan News Sun* read:

"Mary L. Walters, 76, of 1519 Ridgeway Ave., Round Lake Beach died Thursday, Dec. 8 at Crown Manor Nursing Home in Zion. Mrs. Walters was born Aug. 17, 1901 in Lansing, Kansas, and had lived in Round Lake Beach for the past 14 years. She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Libertyville. Survivors include her husband Joseph; one son Louis of Round Lake; three grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; two sisters, Winnie Crawford of Dodge City, Kansas, and Alma Grenier of Sidonia, Arizona; and one brother, Ernest Currey of Denver, Colorado."

Her funeral was held on 12 December 1977 at the First Baptist Church of Libertyville, with burial following at **Highland Memorial Park in Lake County, Illinois**.

Joseph survived Mary by just a few years, dying on 7 April 1980 at St. Therese Hospital in Round Lake Beach at the age of 83.

Historical Context

Mary Lela Currey's life spanned much of the 20th century, a period of immense change in America. Born in the first decade of the century, she experienced:

- **World War I** as a teenager, when her future husband Joseph briefly served.
- The **Great Depression**, which overlapped with her years raising young children in Kansas and Missouri.
- **World War II**, during which her son Claude gave his life in service.
- The postwar years, marked by suburban growth, mobility, and community church life, which she enjoyed in Round Lake, Illinois.

Mary's story reflects the resilience of Midwestern families who moved often for opportunity, relied on church and family gatherings for connection, and lived through wars and economic uncertainty. Her legacy continues through her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

SOURCES:

1. Funeral Card / Memorial Book, Funeral program for Mary I. Walters (Curry.Notebook),

2. Hiram Currey, Hiram Currey Family Bible (New York: American Bible Society, 1880); Marcia Philbrick, Seneca, KS, Family Record

3. Waukegan News Sun, (Waukegan, Illinois), 10 December 1977; Memorial Obituary. Walters.

4. 1905 Kansas State Census, Leavenworth County, Kansas, state census, Lansing, Leavenworth County, Kansas, page 2, Image 3 of 58, household 11, H M Curry; digital image, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online November 2017); Kansas State Historical Society

5. 1910 U.S. Census, Rooks County, Kansas, population schedule, Twin Mound Township, Rooks County, Kansas, ED 168, Sheet 11A, Image 6 of 8, household 201, Currey Hiram M; digital images, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online November 2017); NARA microfilm publication T6224

6. "Horace Mann Graduates," The Kansas City Times (Kansas City, Missouri), 6 June 1916, page 3; digital images, Newspapers.com (www.newspapers.com : viewed online 9 August 2021).

7. 1925 Kansas Census, Finney County, Kansas, Kansas State Census, Garden City, Finney County, Kansas, page 5, Image 230 of 264, household 3, J. L. Walters; digital image, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online September 2016); Kansas State Historical Society

8. 1930 U.S. Census, Clay County, Missouri, population schedule, District 10, North Kansas City, Clay County, Missouri, SD 2, ED 24-10, Sheet 9B, Image 18 of 52, family 291, Joseph L. Walters; digital image, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online September 2016); NARA T626

9. 1940 U.S. Census, Cook County, Illinois, population, Ward 1, Chicago, enumeration district (ED) SD 1, ED 103-43, AA1, 2607, Joseph Walters; digital image, Ancestry.com (http://www.ancestry.com : online 15 November 2015); National Archivers and Records Administration, 1940. T627.

10. Deaths, Dodge City Daily Globe, Dodge City, Kansas, 15 Se[1043, page 2.

11. Currey Siblings Taylor's Host Reunioni, Sedona, Arizona, August 1964, Crawford Family Papers, privately held by Marcia Philbrick, Seneca, KS 66538.

12. "Herbert M. Currey," Deseret News (Salt Lake City, Utah), 23 April 1971, page 28; digital images, Newspapers.com (www.newspapers.com : viewed online 10 July 2021).

13. Social Security Administration, "U.S. Social Security Death Index," database, Ancestry, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online June 2016), Mary Walters, #349-20-8061, issued before 1951.

14. , Obituary Clipping (N.p.: n.p., n.d.).

15. Find a Grave, database and images, Find a Grave (www.findagrave.com : online 13 November 2015), Find a Grave Memorial no. 125597498, created by Rich, citing Queen of Heaven Catholic Cemetery, Hillside, Cook, Illinois, United States; accompanying photograph by photo added by BParker, PFC Claude A. Walters.

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Saturday Night Genealogy Fun

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
September 21, 2025
Currey,SaturdayNightGenealogyFun
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/09/21/saturday-night-genealogy-fun-171/

Calling all Genea-Musings Fans:

It's Saturday Night again –

Time for some more Genealogy Fun!!

Your mission, should you decide to accept it (cue the Mission Impossible! music) is to:

1) Pick one of your ancestors that you want to know more about. Based on your knowledge of their life, what story lines do you want to explore?

I would love to know more about my third great grandfather, Hiram M. Currey. While I have compiled quite a list of facts about Hiram between 1817 and 1849, there's a lot that I don't know. Thus, my questions.

- Was your father the treasurer for the state of Ohio? It so, how did the scandal involving the Ohio State Treasurer impact the family?
- How did your father's political activities impact the family prior to him becoming the state treasurer?
- Was your mother Sarah Reagan? If so, how old were you when she died?
- Did your father remarry? If not, did he have someone to help take care of his young children after his wife's death?
- Do you have any brothers? If so, whomWhen and where did your father die? Did you attend the funeral?
- How were you trained to be a lawyer? Did you apprentice under another lawyer? If so, who?
- How did you meet your wife, Rachel Harris Whittaker?
- Why did you move to Peoria?
- Were you ever in the same courtroom as Abraham Lincoln? If so, what was that experience like?
- When did Rachel die?
- What was your relationship with Rachel's son, Harris Whitaker like?
- Why was your son, Hiram living with his aunt in 1850?
- Where were your sisters Julia, Mary and Carline living in 1850?
- Did your sister, Julia, have any children? If so, who?
- What happened to your sister Mary's children?
- Did you actually go to the gold fields? If so, did you make it to California or did you die along the trail?
- Can you explain how your various military ranks: private in Capt. Pike's Company of Rock River Rangers; Major of Peoria batallion; 2 Sergeant in Capt. Eads company of Mounted Rangers; lietenant colonel of the 1st regiment
- Who appointed you "Commissioner on the Conduct of the Pottawatomi" and why?
- Where did you die? Where are you buried?

Timeline for Hiram M. Currey

30	23 May 1817	Witness: on a mortage deed between Hiram M. Currey and Gustavus Swan; Franklin, Ohio, United States
35	4 Apr 1822	Occupation: admitted into the practice of law, the 1st attorney of Rush County and was at once made prosecutor; Rush, Indiana, United States
35	26 Sep 1822	Occupation: admitted to practice law; Indianapolis, Marion, Indiana, United States
35	10 Oct 1822	Occupation: appointed the first prosecuting attorney; Shelby County, Indiana
36	Apr 1823	Occupation: resigned as prosecuting attorney; Rush, Indiana, United States
37	28 Sep 1824	Marriage: Rachel Harris-1278; John W. McReynolds, a licensed minister of the gospel of the Methodist Episcopal Church; Edgar, Edgar, Illinois, United States
38	Abt 1825	Residence: Medina Township, Peoria, Illinois, United States
38	1825	Tax: assessed $225; Ten Mile Creek, Peoria, Illinois, United States
38	Abt Jul 1825	Office-Pol: appointed Constable; Peoria, Peoria, Illinois, United States
39	10 Jul 1826	Land-Purch: purchased lot 9 in Block No. 2 at $51.00 during the first public sale of lands; Peoria, Peoria, Illinois, United States
39	Aug 1826	Office-Pol: ran for county commissioner; Peoria, Illinois, United States
39	26 Dec 1826	Office-Pol: nomination for justice of peace for Peoria County was approved by Illinois House of Representatives; Peoria, Peoria, Illinois, United States
39	27 Dec 1826	Office-Pol: confirmation by the Senate for his nomination by the Illinois House of Representatives for justice of peace representing Peoria County was announced; Peoria, Peoria, Illinois, United States
40	5 Jan 1827	Office-Pol: commissioned justice of peace; Peoria, Peoria, Illinois, United States
41	14 Aug 1828	Office-Pol: a candidate for county commissioner; Peoria, Peoria, Illinois, United States
41	18 Oct 1828	Office-Pol: a candidate for justice of peace; La Salle District, Peoria County, Illinois
42	1829	Residence: an early settler; Spring Bay Township, Tazewell County, Illinois

42	29 Aug 1829	Office-Pol: received 28 votes for justice of the peace and was elected to the office; LaSalle Precinct, Peoria County, Illinois
42	9 Nov 1829	Occupation: Justice of Peace; Peoria, Peoria, Illinois, United States
43	1830	Residence: was listed with 1 male age 10-15, 2 males age 30-40, 1 female under 5, 1 female age 20-30 on the 1830 census; Peoria, Peoria, Illinois, United States
43	1830	Occupation: to have performed a marriage ceremony in the home of John Hammett but did not arrive until late; Mossville, Peoria, Illinois, United States
43	4 Mar 1830	Military: commissioned major of Peoria battalion; Illinois, United States
43	15 Jul 1830	Occupation: justice of the peace ; Peoria, Illinois, United States
44	Bet 16 Jun 1831 and 26 Jun 1831	Military: served in Capt. Pike's Company of the Rock River Rangers as a private in the IL Volunteer Militia in the Sac & Fox War. Hiram M. Currey enrolled at Fort Armstrong; Illinois, United States
45	1832	Residence: was appointed along with Charles Ballance as commissioners to a road towards Knoxville that passes on north line of; Peoria, Peoria, Illinois, United States
45	Abt 1832	Occupation: performed the first marriage solemnized between white people in this region between Harris W. Miner and Miss Nancy Gross; Stark, Stark, Illinois, United States
45	23 Apr 1832	Military: as 2 Sergeantt in Capt. Eads' Company of Mounted Rangers in Stillman's Battalion, Illinois Mounted Volunteers; Illinois, United States
45	1832	Military: on the muster roll of Captain Abner Eads Company of Mounted Ranging Volunteers enrolled on an Order from Commander in Chief of the Militia of the State of Illinois to Brigadier General Isaiah Stillman for the service of the United States and served as Orderly Sergt. from May 17th to the 21st of May; Peoria, Peoria, Illinois, United States
45	28 Jun 1832	Military: having served as 2 Sergeant in Captain Ead's Company Mounted Rangers in Stillman's Battallion, Illinois Mounted Volunteers; Illinois, United States
45	6 Nov 1832	Military: sent a letter and petition to General Atkinson regarding burning of land and bridge by Winnebago Indians. The letter is signed Hiram M. Curry, major Peoria Add Battn of Ill Militia; Peoria, Peoria, Illinois, United States
45	16 Nov 1832	Residence: identified at the bottom of a letter from Henry Atkinson, Jefferson

		Barracks dated; Peoria, Peoria, Illinois, United States
45	Dec 1832	Office-Pol: Commissioner on the conduct of the Pottawatomi; Illinois, United States
47	1834	Land Entry: applied to enter land (SW 1/4 S5 T10N R9E of 4th Principle Meridian) by preemption agreeably to Act of Congress of 19 June 1834; Peoria, Peoria, Illinois, United States
47	17 Oct 1834	Land-Purch: the SW1/4 Section 9 Township 9N Range 8E of the 4th Principal Meridian from Lewis Hallock and Sophia his wife of Peoria Co., IL; Peoria, Peoria, Illinois, United States
47	18 Oct 1834	Land-Sold: the SW1/4 Section 9 Township 9N Range 8E in the Military Bounty Tract of Illinois to Blewford Stringer for $200.00; Illinois, United States
48	1835	Residence: mentioned in tax list; Peoria, Peoria, Illinois, United States
49	Bet 1836 and 1840	Court: involved in a land dispute with Isaac Underhill regarding whether Hiram M. Curry was actually residing on the land he had claimed by preemption being the SW fractional quarter Section 5 Township 10 North Range 9 East of the 4th principal meridian; Peoria, Peoria, Illinois, United States
49	1836	Occupation: taught school in a cabin near where the residence of Moses Neal now stands; Peoria, Peoria, Illinois, United States
49	19 Mar 1836	Land Entry: claiming he occupied and raised a crop on the SW fraction quarter of Section 5 Township 19 N Range 9 East of 4th principal Meridian in year 1833; Peoria, Peoria, Illinois, United States
49	30 May 1836	Land Entry: paying $44.20 for the SW fractional quarter of Section 5 Township 10 N Range 9 E of the 4th principal meridian containing 35 acres; Peoria, Peoria, Illinois, United States
49	9 Jul 1836	Land-Purch: the E 1/2 of the NW 1/4 Section 30 Township 11N Range 9E of the 4th Principal Meridian being 78 and 99/100 acres for $150 from Linus Scoville and his wife Elizabeth Scoville; Peoria, Peoria, Illinois, United States
49	9 Jul 1836	Land-Sold: 78 and 99/100 acres in the E 1/2 NW 1/4 S30T11NR9E of 4th principal meridian for $800.00 to Thomas M. Currey; Peoria, Peoria, Illinois, United States
51	3 Oct 1838	Land Entry: His certificate #8250 for SW1/4 S5T10NR9E was cancelled; Peoria, Peoria, Illinois, United States

53	1840	Office-Pol: candidate for representative; Peoria, Peoria, Illinois, United States
53	1840	Residence: was listed on the 1840 census with 1 male under 5, 1 male 30-40, 1 female under 5, 1 female 30-40; Peoria, Peoria, Illinois, United States
53	23 Nov 1840	Land-Purch: being the E1/2 of the NW1/4 Section 30 Township 11N Range 9E of 4th principle meridian; Peoria, Peoria, Illinois, United States
55	28 Mar 1842	Land-Sold: by quit claim to Isaac Underhill the S 1/2 of Section 5 Township 10N Range 9E of 4th principal meridian acquired by virtue of preemption for the sum of $150.00; Illinois, United States
55	31 Dec 1842	Military: commissioned lieutenant colonel of 1st regiment; Illinois, United States
57	27 Nov 1844	Residence: member of school trustees; Woodford, Woodford, Illinois, United States
62	Abt 1849	Migrated: to the gold fields

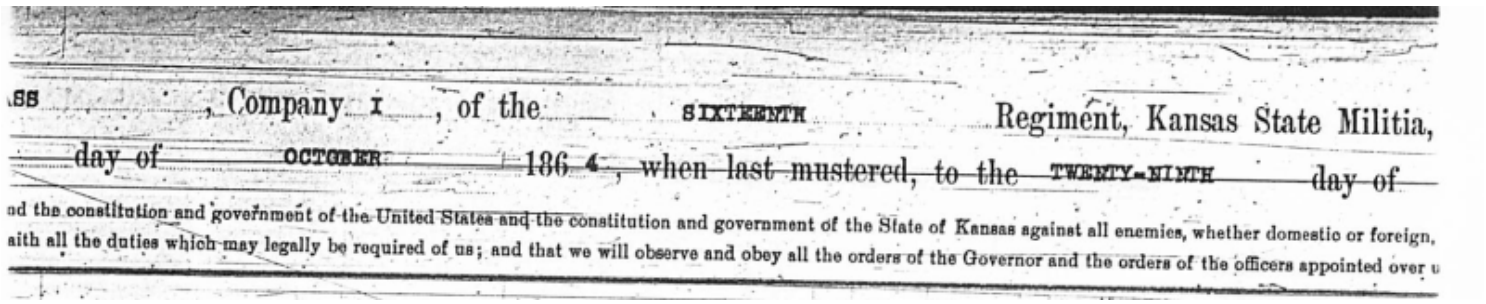
Muster Rolls

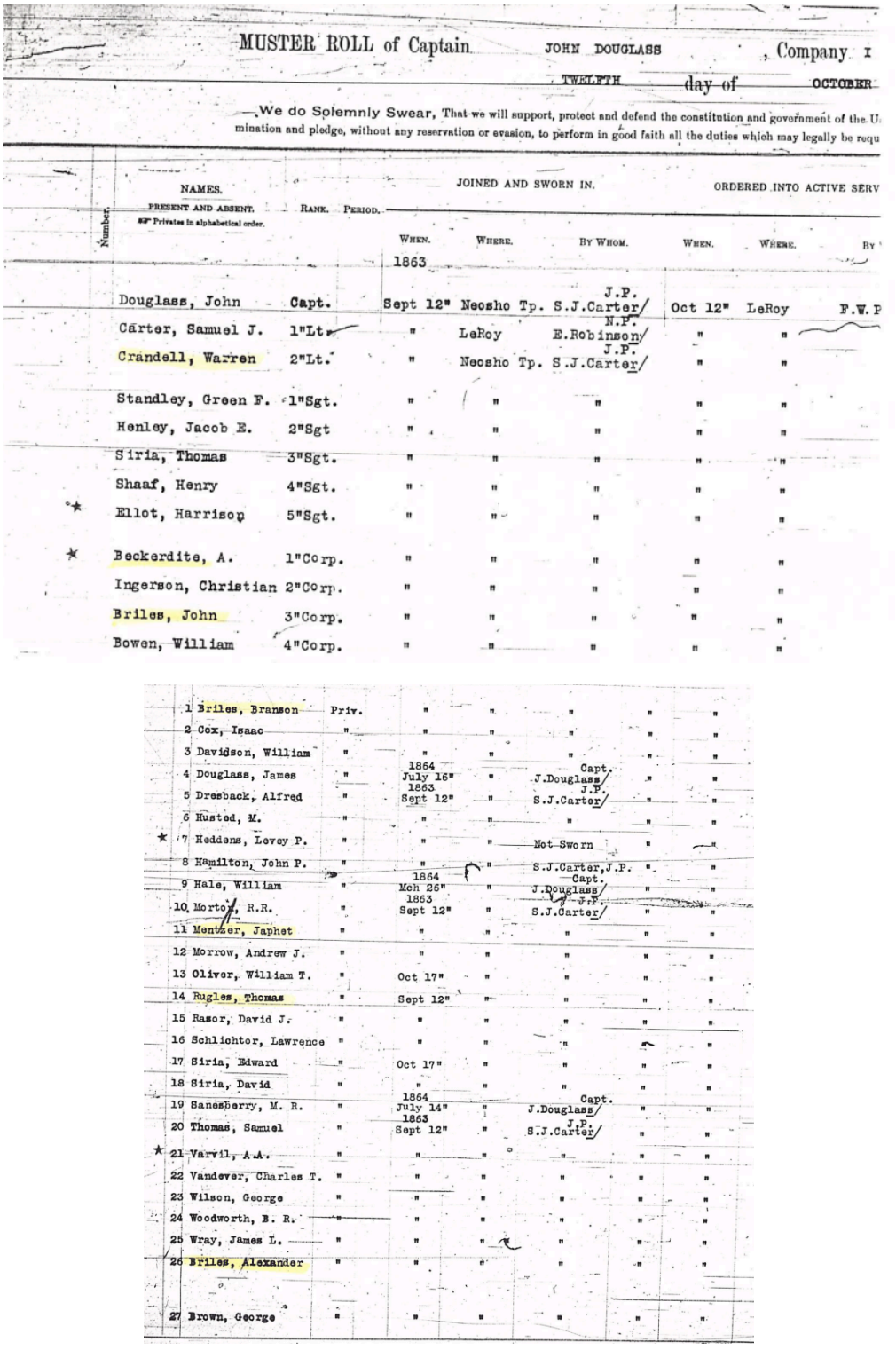
By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
September 22, 2025
Briles,Civil War,Kansas
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/09/22/muster-rolls/

Do you have ancestors who served in the Civil War? If so, were any of them called to defend their own state from invasion? When we think of Confederate troops crossing state lines, Pennsylvania often comes to mind. Yet on the western frontier, Kansans faced that same threat in October 1864. Major General Sterling Price led a raid across Missouri, pushing toward Kansas and forcing the Kansas militia into service.

Among those called up were my ancestor Alexander Briles, his son John Briles, nephew Branson Briles, and sons-in-law Japhet Mentzer and Thomas Ruggles. All served under Captain John Douglas in Company I of the 16th Regiment of the Kansas State Militia. This regiment fought at Byram's Ford on the Big Blue River near present-day Westport in Kansas City, Missouri, where Price's advance was ultimately stopped.

Although my Briles relatives took part in this campaign, their names do not appear in Ancestry's *Kansas Civil War Soldiers* database. Fortunately, the Kansas State Historical Society preserved the Kansas State Militia muster rolls on microfilm [LM817], which provide the documentation needed to confirm their service.


, Company I , of the SIXTEENTH Regiment, Kansas State Militia,
day of OCTOBER 1864, when last mustered, to the TWENTY-NINTH day of
od the constitution and government of the United States and the constitution and government of the State of Kansas against all enemies, whether domestic or foreign,
aith all the duties which may legally be required of us; and that we will observe and obey all the orders of the Governor and the orders of the officers appointed over u



MUSTER ROLL of Captain JOHN DOUGLASS , Company I

TWELFTH day of OCTOBER

We do Solemnly Swear, That we will support, protect and defend the constitution and government of the U
mination and pledge, without any reservation or evasion, to perform in good faith all the duties which may legally be requ

Number.	NAMES. PRESENT AND ABSENT. ☞ Privates in alphabetical order.	RANK.	PERIOD.	JOINED AND SWORN IN. WHEN.	WHERE.	BY WHOM.	ORDERED INTO ACTIVE SERV WHEN.	WHERE.	BY
				1863					
	Douglass, John	Capt.		Sept 12"	Neosho Tp.	S.J.Carter/ J.P.	Oct 12"	LeRoy	F.W.P
	Carter, Samuel J.	1"Lt.		"	LeRoy	E.Robinson/ N.P.	"	"	
	Crandell, Warren	2"Lt.		"	Neosho Tp.	S.J.Carter/ J.P.	"	"	
	Standley, Green F.	1"Sgt.		"	"	"	"	"	
	Henley, Jacob E.	2"Sgt		"	"	"	"	"	
	Siria, Thomas	3"Sgt.		"	"	"	"	"	
	Shaaf, Henry	4"Sgt.		"	"	"	"	"	
*	Ellot, Harrison	5"Sgt.		"	"	"	"	"	
*	Beckerdite, A.	1"Corp.		"	"	"	"	"	
	Ingerson, Christian	2"Corp.		"	"	"	"	"	
	Briles, John	3"Corp.		"	"	"	"	"	
	Bowen, William	4"Corp.		"	"	"	"	"	
1	Briles, Branson	Priv.		"	"	"	"	"	
2	Cox, Isaac	"		"	"	"	"	"	
3	Davidson, William	"		"	"	"	"	"	
4	Douglass, James	"		1864 July 16"	"	Capt. J.Douglass/	"	"	
5	Dresback, Alfred	"		1863 Sept 12"	"	J.P. S.J.Carter/	"	"	
6	Husted, M.	"		"	"	"	"	"	
* 7	Heddens, Levey P.	"		"	"	Not Sworn	"	"	
8	Hamilton, John P.	"		"	"	S.J.Carter,J.P.	"	"	
9	Hale, William	"		1864 Mch 26"	"	Capt. J.Douglass/	"	"	
10	Morton, R.R.	"		1863 Sept 12"	"	J.P. S.J.Carter/	"	"	
11	Mentzer, Japhet	"		"	"	"	"	"	
12	Morrow, Andrew J.	"		"	"	"	"	"	
13	Oliver, William T.	"		Oct 17"	"	"	"	"	
14	Rugles, Thomas	"		Sept 12"	"	"	"	"	
15	Razor, David J.	"		"	"	"	"	"	
16	Schlichter, Lawrence	"		"	"	"	"	"	
17	Siria, Edward	"		Oct 17"	"	"	"	"	
18	Siria, David	"		"	"	"	"	"	
19	Sanesberry, M. R.	"		1864 July 14"	"	Capt. J.Douglass/	"	"	
20	Thomas, Samuel	"		1863 Sept 12"	"	J.P. S.J.Carter/	"	"	
* 21	Varvil, A.A.	"		"	"	"	"	"	
22	Vandever, Charles T.	"		"	"	"	"	"	
23	Wilson, George	"		"	"	"	"	"	
24	Woodworth, B. R.	"		"	"	"	"	"	
25	Wray, James L.	"		"	"	"	"	"	
26	Briles, Alexander	"		"	"	"	"	"	
27	Brown, George	"		"	"	"	"	"	

The muster rolls of the Kansas State Militia serve as a tangible reminder of the everyday men who rose to defend their homes during the Civil War. For my Briles relatives, these records provide the missing proof of their service at a time when Kansas itself stood at risk. While they may not appear in widely used online databases, the preservation of these rolls by the Kansas State Historical Society ensures their sacrifice is not forgotten. By pairing the original documents with family stories, we can honor the men who answered the call and preserve their place in both state and family history.

Documenting a Family History

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
September 23, 2025
Crawford,Iowa,Ohio
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/09/23/documenting-a-family-history/

Do you have old correspondence tucked away in your genealogy files? If so, have you ever noticed that some of it refers to families that don't seem to connect directly to your research? That was my experience when I reopened a 1993 letter containing details about the family of **Robert Crawford**.

Robert Crawford was born in Virginia and later moved to Ohio. He married **Elizabeth Diadem**, who was born in Kentucky. Together, they raised a large family:

- Robert R., born September 3, 1809 in Ohio
- Nancy
- Harriet
- Isaac
- James
- Andrew
- Samuel
- Joseph
- Margaret

The eldest son, **Robert R. Crawford**, born in 1809, eventually migrated to Indiana. On March 31, 1833, he married **Mary Ann Hair** in Covington, Fountain County, Indiana. The couple later settled in Warren County, Indiana, near Foster, just west of the Wabash River.

Because this younger Robert moved from Ohio to Warren County, Indiana, I began to wonder: could his family be connected to one of the two James Crawford families found in nearby Preble County, Ohio, and Warren County, Indiana?

From a DAR Publication to a Will

While exploring FamilySearch's new full-text search, I came across a DAR publication that outlined Robert Crawford's family. That discovery led me to Robert C. Crawford's **will**, preserved in the probate records of Miami County, Ohio.

> I , Robert C Crawford of the County of Miami in the State of Ohio do make and pub
> lish this my last will and testament in manner and form following :
> 1st It is my will that my funeral expences and all my just Debts be fully paid
> 2nd I give and Devise and bequeath to beloved wife Polly Crawford in lien of her dower
> the Interest on one third of all the money that shall arise from the sale of all the Real

Estate and personally property . In the State of Ohio – during her natural life .
3rd it is my will that all my Real Estate be sold after being appraised by three good
Industrious Freeholders , according to the Law made and provided for in such cases .
4th It is my will that so much of the personal property be sold at publick sale , as
necessary to pay all the debts 5th I give and devise to my son William G Crawford
and his heirs the the farm that he now lives upon – Containing two hundred acres
and also a tract of land containing sixty acres for timber of which he holds a
receipt and also one quarter section of land No 71 N 8 & laying and being in the
I Oway teratory and also five hundred dollars cash after the lands are sold by the
Executors – 6th I give and bequeath to my beloved son Robert C Crawford and his heirs
one fourth of the quarter sections of land laying and being in Township No 68 N. &
near the green bay after the mill race or Ditch is opened for the purpose of building
a mill the said Robert C Crawford shall have the privilege of cutting a ditch to
carry the water were he think fit for the purpose of erecting a mechanary the
said Robert C Crawford is to be at Equal Expence in keeping the Place in Repare to
the mecheanery . I also give and bequeath Robert C Crawford one thousand dollars
in cash . 7th I give and bequeath to my Daughter Eliza Crawford – and her children
three quarter sections of land in Town 71 N8 W on little cedar creek and also five hun
dred dollars in cash so soon as sales & collections are made by the Executors

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PROBATE COURT , MIAMI COUNTY , OHIO .
8th I give and devise to to Samuel Crawford and John B Crawford my beloved sons
and their heirs the land that they now have possession of in the County of Henry IOway
teratory and each fifteen hundred dollars each to be applied for Mill purposes and no
other use and if John B Crawford shall build on said premises such as a grist mill
and shall take John Carter in the mill as a miller or any other way the said John
B Crawford shall pay back the said sum of fifteen hundred dollars – the executors first
taking a bond to that effect and the said Samuel and John B Crawford shall have each
one quarter Section of land lying and being in Township 21 – N. 8 W on little cedar that
empties into Skunk R. I give and devise to my beloved children Joseph Crawford – James
Crawford and Nancy Craw each of them one half section of land on Green Bay – In Ioway
teratory I give and bequeath & my Daughter Nancy or her heirs one thousand dollars cash
I authorize my son Joseph Crawford to build a grist will on the land that lays on
Green Bay taking the water out of Skunk River and throwing the water into Green Bay
for which I leave him fifteen thousand Dollars . 10th I give and bequeath to my beloved
son George W Crawford and his heirs , three quarter sections of land laying and being in
town 71 N 8 W and also one thousand Dollars cash to be paid when made by sale
11th. is my will that so soon as the above will shall be build the proceeds of the prophit
that shall arise from said mill after Keeping the same in repair shall be divided
into one hundred and fifty shares , and Joseph Crawford is to have fourty shares and
to be head miller and Superintendant of said mill I give and bequeath to James Crawford
thirty five shares it is my will that Wm G Crawford have eight shares , it is my will
that my son Robert C Crawford have six shares it is my will that Samuel Crawford
is to have eight shares it is my will that Eliza Crawford have four shares it is my will
that John B Crawford have ten chares it is my will that Nancy Crawford have
eight shares it is my will George W Crawford have ten shares in the above described
will It is my will that if it becomes necessary for the building of said mill that my
Executors sell the ballance of my land that is not disposed of in this will and apply it
to the building and furnishing said mill and lastly I hereby constitute and appoint my
beloved son Joseph Crawford and James Crawford to be the executors for this my last
will and testament . In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal
this twelfth day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and
forty two Robert C Crawford

Signed published and delivered by the above named Robert C Crawford in presents of us
who at his request have signed as witnesses to the same . Jacob Shroyer – E I Hopkins

Proof of Robert C Crawford ‘s Will . –
The State of Ohio – Miami County ss : Court of Common Pleas – September Term AD 1842
Personally appeared in open court Jacob Shroyer and Elihu I Hopkins and made oath
in due form of law that their signature to the paper now presented to the Court purporting
to be the last will and testament of Robert C Crawford late of said County deceased are
genuine ; that they subscribed their names as witnesses thereto in the presence and at
the request of the said Robert C Crawford that said Robert C Crawford executed said
will in their presence and that at the time of executing the same the said Robert C
Crawford was of full age – of sound mind and memory and not under any restraint

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PROBATE COURT , MIAMI COUNTY , OHIO .

> Jacob Shroyer I Hopkins
> Subscribed and sworn to in open court this 24th day of September AD 1842 . Th. J. Smith Clk
> Filed Sept 24th 1842
>
> "Miami, Ohio, United States records," images, FamilySearch (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-89Q2-H9N2?view=explore : Sep 12, 2025), image 150 of 186; Ohio. County Court (Miami County). Image Group Number: 005868039

The will, dated **August 12, 1842**, not only names his wife, Polly, but also provides a remarkable amount of detail about his children, their land holdings, and even business arrangements involving mill construction in Iowa Territory. Among the heirs were:

- **William G. Crawford** – received farmland and cash
- **Robert C. Crawford (Jr.)** – received land, mill rights, and cash
- **Eliza Crawford** and her children – received land and cash
- **Samuel Crawford** and **John B. Crawford** – land and funds earmarked for mill purposes
- **Joseph, James, and Nancy Crawford** – each receiving land in Green Bay, Iowa Territory, plus Nancy's cash legacy
- **George W. Crawford** – land and cash

The will also laid out detailed provisions for a mill operation, including the division of profits into 150 shares among his heirs, with Joseph named as superintendent.

Witnesses Jacob Shroyer and Elihu I. Hopkins swore to the validity of the document at the September 1842 term of the Miami County Court of Common Pleas.

Confirming Family Connections

This will provides documentary support for the Crawford family structure as it appears on FamilySearch, confirming the relationships of Robert C. Crawford [MWVP-359], his wife Polly [GH5Z-N7R], and their children William G., Robert C., Eliza, Samuel, John B., Joseph, James, Nancy, and George W.

For me, what began as a casual look at an old letter turned into a deeper exploration of probate records, linking scattered pieces of family history into a clearer picture of the Robert C. Crawford family.

This will not only anchors Robert C. Crawford's family within the probate records of Miami County, Ohio, but also adds new layers to the broader Crawford research. The land holdings stretching into the Iowa Territory and the careful provisions for his children suggest a family of both means and ambition. Whether or not this Robert connects to the James Crawford families of Preble County, Ohio, or Warren County, Indiana, remains an open question—but one worth pursuing. Each discovery, from a forgotten letter to a court-filed will, helps stitch together the intricate web of Crawford relationships, moving me one step closer to understanding how these families intertwine.

RootsMagic 11 – GROUPS

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
September 24, 2025
RootsMagic
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/09/24/rootsmagic-11-groups/

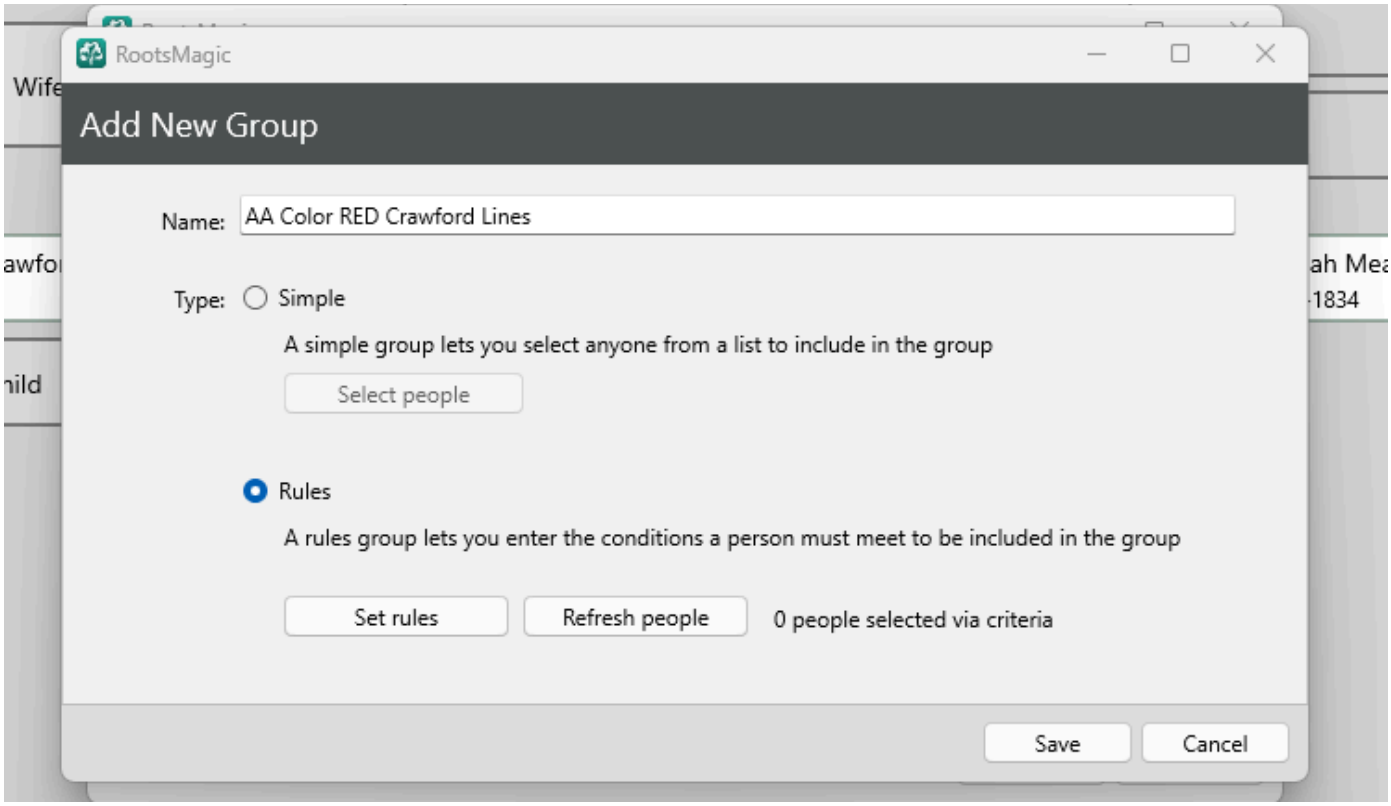
When it comes to using new software, are you a diver or an evaluator? Do you sit back and check out all of the new features and how to use them before committing to an upgrade? Or, do you just dive in and start using the software and figure it out as you go?

When it comes to genealogy software, I'm a diver. I don't want to take the time away from research to spend evaluating software. I also don't want to take the chance that I might record a new source while in the evaluation stage just to lose it because I only recorded it in the 'test' database. Thus, I converted my RootsMagic 10 database to RootsMagic 11 immediately after installing the new version. As I use the newer version, most of the screens and processes are similar. However, the creation of a group based on 'rules' is slightly different.

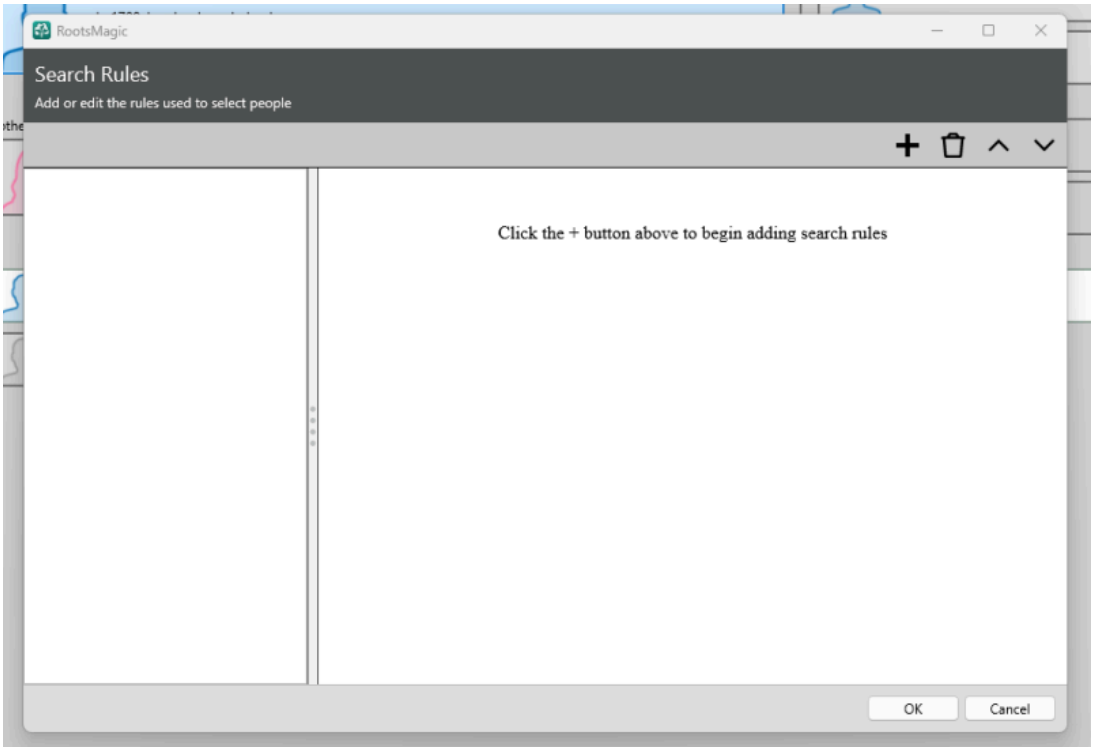
I'm a big fan of color coding. I then create groups based on the colors. These groups allow me to select a portion of my file for tasks such as TreeShare.

The process to create a group based on color is one of the procedures that changed slightly from version 10 to version 11.

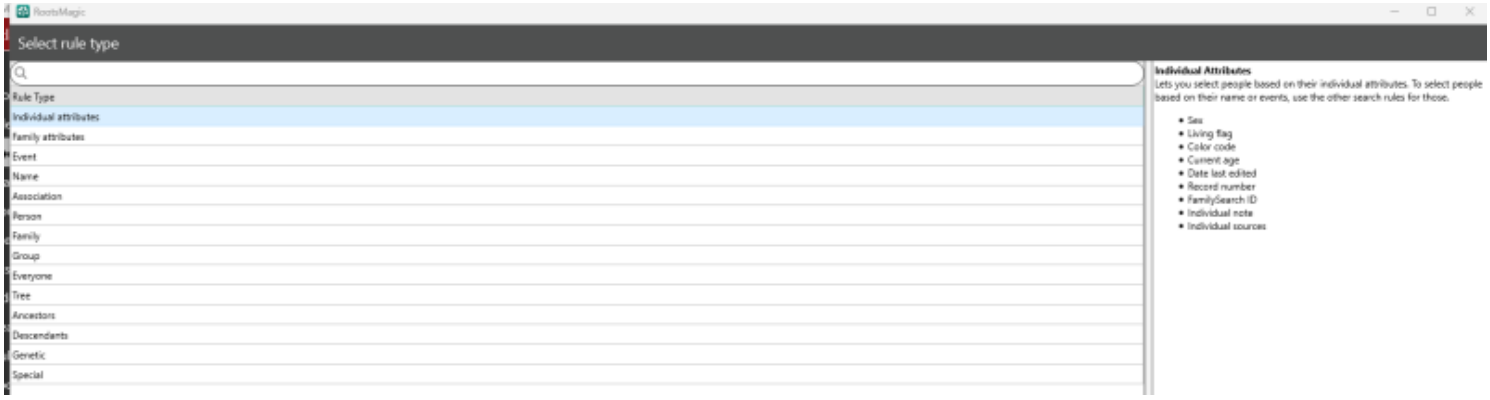
The first step is to add a group based on rules and give it a name.


RootsMagic
Add New Group
Name: AA Color RED Crawford Lines
Type: Simple
A simple group lets you select anyone from a list to include in the group
Select people
Rules
A rules group lets you enter the conditions a person must meet to be included in the group
Set rules
Refresh people
0 people selected via criteria
Save
Cancel

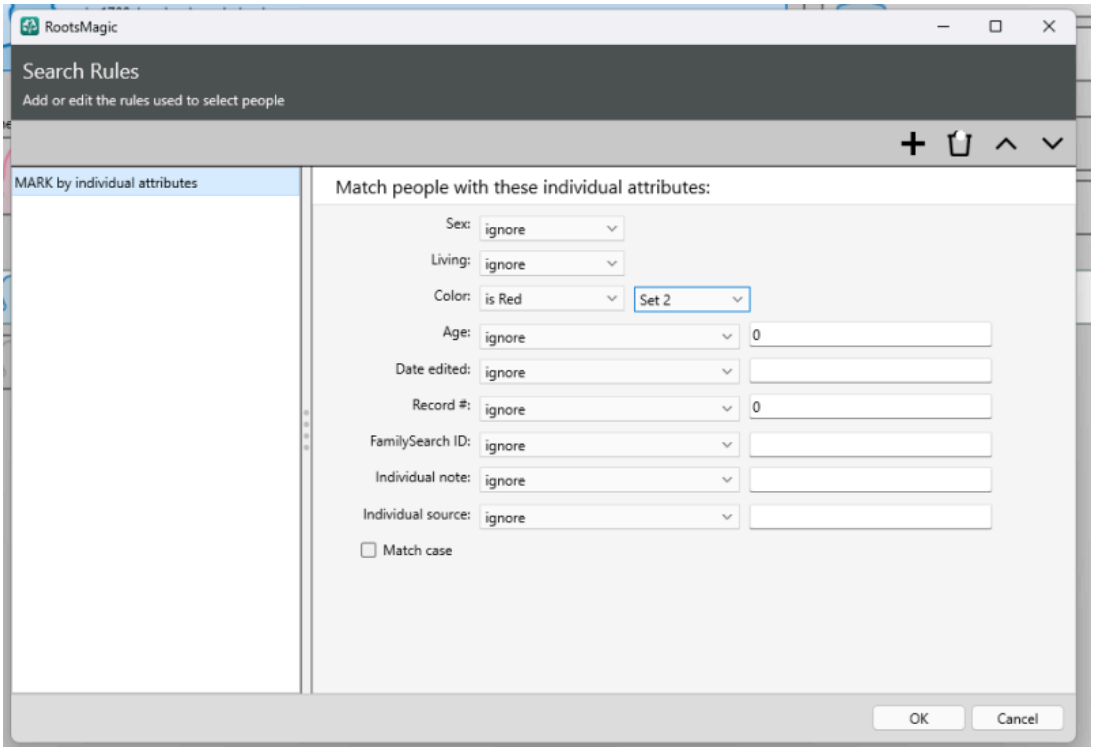
This opens a window displaying the current rules for the group. Since there are none, I click on the plus sign to add a rule.


RootsMagic
Search Rules
Add or edit the rules used to select people
Click the + button above to begin adding search rules
OK
Cancel

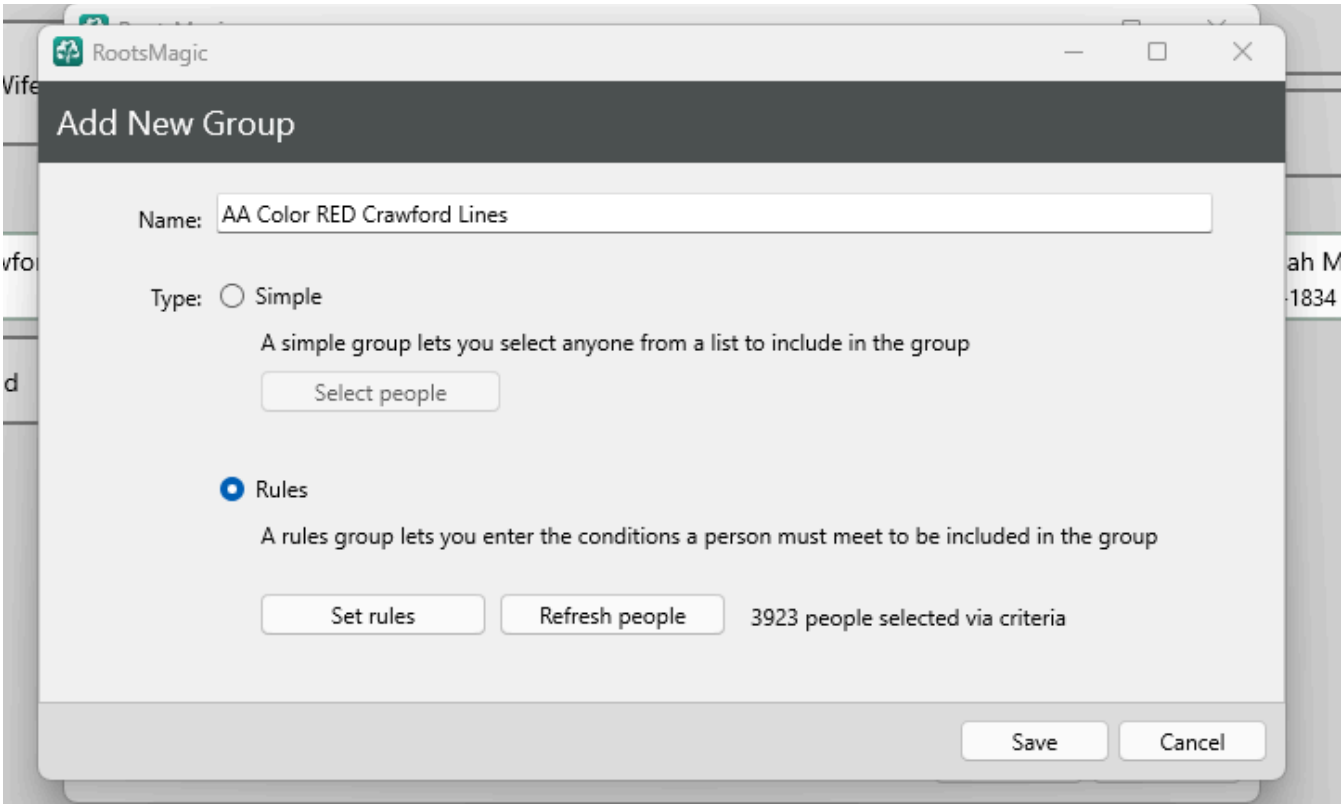
Next, I select a rule type. Since I want to create a group based on the color code, I selected ‘Individual attributes”.



Next, I select the desried color ant the set. Since I use several different sets of colors, I assumed that while my sets were named, they appeared in the list in their numerical order.



After clicking OK, the screen displays the number of people added to the group. Clicking SAVE assgns these selected individuals to the group.


RootsMagic
Add New Group
Name: AA Color RED Crawford Lines
Type: Simple
A simple group lets you select anyone from a list to include in the group
Select people
Rules
A rules group lets you enter the conditions a person must meet to be included in the group
Set rules
Refresh people
3923 people selected via criteria
Save
Cancel

As I assign the color to additional people, I can simply use the REFRESH PEOPLE button to add them to the group.

Crawford R1b-01A Trees

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
September 25, 2025
Crawford,R1b,yDNA
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/09/25/crawford-r1b-01a-trees/

Is your Crawford yDNA line in the **R1b-01A group**? If so, have you tried to figure out how your branch might connect to the others in this cluster? One way to start untangling these relationships is to place our “earliest known ancestors” onto collaborative world trees such as **FamilySearch** and **WikiTree**, where connections and sources can be compared across projects.

Over the past few weeks, I’ve been working on identifying those earliest known Crawford ancestors from the **R1b-01A section of the Crawford yDNA project**. To make this easier to visualize, I located each ancestor on FamilySearch (adding their unique IDs) and, where possible, on WikiTree (profiles).

Below is an image of our section of the Crawford yDNA project spreadsheet. I’ve added two new columns showing the **FamilySearch IDs** and the **WikiTree profiles** I was able to track down.

R1b-01 "supergroup"... All are M269>L23>L51>P310>L151>P312>Z46						Test Level	FS ID	WikiTree Profile	
R1b-01A Ardmillan (BY226182) Big Y and closer branches - A13336 > (BY21624 > (BY226182 *OR* Y84286)) *OR* (Y88686 > (FT344803 *OR* > (FT369									
	979341	L	C	James Crawford b1772 VA m1799 KY d1854 OH	United Stat	R-FT99108	Big Y-700	L7F6-MWJ	Crawford-19444	
	520477	D	C	James Crawford b1772VA m1799KY d1854OH	United Stat	R-FT99108	Big Y-700	L7F6-MWJ	Crawford-19444	
	636875	JI	L	David Crawford, b.1709 Scotland and d.1785, MD	Scotland	R-Y84286	Big Y-500	LKRB-CXF back to GRJL-7K3	Crawford-8466	
	127457	J		Avant	Unknown C	R-Y84286	Big Y-700			
	413080	P	C	William Nelson Crawford, b.1829 OH and d.1907 WA	United Stat	R-Y88686	Big Y-700	GGL1-GXY		
	76403	A	C	James Crawfurd of Baidland & Ardmillan d.1708	Scotland	R-FT184753	Big Y-700			
	IN93318	A		Craufurd	Unknown C	R-BY226182	Big Y-700			
	934946	R	C	John Crawford ca1741-7 Apr 1779 VA	Unknown C	R-Y88686	Big Y-700	LZ58-W9R	Crawford-5340	
	87507	F	C	Edward Crawford, b. 1762 and d. 1826	Northern Ir	R-FT344803	Big Y-700	LD9R-8KW	Crawford-13328	
	37564	J		Barton	United King	R-L151	Family Finder			
	48160	C	H	Harry Humphries, 1874 Floyd GA	England	R-M269	Y-DNA67			
	38087	B	C	Edward Crawford, b c1770 PA or VA, d. 17 Jun 1826	Scotland	R-FT344803	Big Y-700	LD9R-8KW	Crawford-13328	
	988737	JI	C	James Crawford b1772VA m1799KY d1854OH	United Stat	R-FT369906	Big Y-700	L7F6-MWJ	Crawford-19444	
	926985	R	C	James Crawford b.1758 VA; d.1836 IN	United Stat	R-Y88686	Big Y-700	LVYV-H4M	Crawford-1137	
	590516	FG		Hugh Crawford	US	R-BY65924	Ireland			
	669108	MN		John Crawford b. 1802 and d. 1869	Ireland		Y-DNA67			al

Can you help connect any of these lines?

R1b-01A Ardmillan Earliest Known Ancestors

- James Crawford (1772-1854) – tests 979341, 520477 and 988737
  - FamilySearch: https://www.familysearch.org/en/tree/person/details/L7F6-MWJ
  - WikiTree: https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Crawford-19444
- James Crawford – wife Margery
  - FamilySearch: https://www.familysearch.org/en/tree/person/details/L5FF-1NF
  - WikiTree: https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Crawford-18048
    - son James Crawford (1758-1836) – test 926985
    - son John Crawford (ca. 1741-7- 1779) – test 934946
      - probably descendant of John: William Nelson Crawford (1829-1907) – test 413080
- Edward Crawford (1762-1826) tests 87507 and 38087
  - FamilySearch: https://www.familysearch.org/en/tree/person/details/LD9R-8KW
  - WikiTree: https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Crawford-13328
- David Crawford (1710-1785) of Maryland test 636875
  - FamilySearch: https://www.familysearch.org/en/tree/person/details/GRJL-7K3
  - WikiTree: https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Crawford-8466

By anchoring each of these lines to both **FamilySearch IDs** and **WikiTree profiles**, we create a stronger foundation for collaboration. These connections not only make it easier to compare sources but also invite other researchers to add documentation, correct errors, and share discoveries. As more Crawford descendants join the yDNA project and link their lines into these world trees, we'll be in a better position to see where our families intersect—and perhaps finally untangle some of the long-standing mysteries in the R1b-01A group.

Friday Find

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
September 26, 2025
Connecticut,New York,Wells,White
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/09/26/friday-find-93/

Do you have handwritten notes in your genealogy files that were copied from a book by another researcher? Today's **WELLS family Friday Find** is just such a treasure. It's a transcription of WHITE family information taken from the book *Memorials of Elder John White*. These notes trace the WHITE lineage from Elder John White of England and Massachusetts down through several generations to Abagail White, who married Green Wells.

White Family

1 — Elder John White was born between 1595 & 1605.
His home was supposed to have been in Chelmsford, Essex Co., England.

He arrived in Boston with wife & two children, Sept. 16, 1632, on the *Ship Lyon*, Capt. Pierce, after a passage of eight weeks.

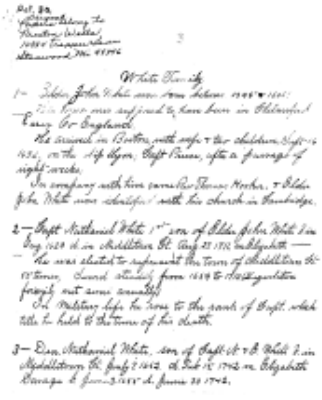
In company with him came Rev. Thomas Hooker, & Elder John White was identified with his church in Cambridge.

---

2 — Capt. Nathaniel White, 1st son of Elder John White, b. in Eng. 1629. d. in Middletown Ct. Aug. 27, 1711. m. Elizabeth ——

He was elected to represent the town of Middletown Ct. 85 times; served steadily from 1659 to 1710 (Legislature formerly met semi-annually).

In military life he rose to the rank of Capt., which title he held to the time of his death.



3 — Dea. Nathaniel White, son of Capt. N. & E. White, b. in Middletown Ct. July 7, 1652. d. Feb. 15, 1742. m. Elizabeth Savage b. June 3, 1655 d. June 30, 1742.

He was one of the founders of Hadley, Mass., & Selectman for fifty years.

4 — John White, third child of Dea. N. & E. White, b. in Hadley, Mass. Nov. 28, 1682. d. about 1766. m. Jan. 6, 1715, Martha Church, b. Sept. 23, 1682. *date of death unknown.*

5 — Oliver White, fourth child of J. & M. White, b. in Hadley, Mass. June 28, 1724. d. 1784. m. Abagail Seldon, Jan. 18, 1755.

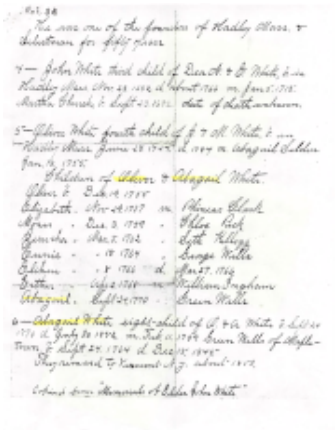
Children of Oliver & Abagail White:

- Oliver, b. Dec. 19, 1755
- Elizabeth, b. Nov. 29, 1757, m. Phineas Clark
- Moses, b. Dec. 3, 1759, m. Chloe Peck
- Jerusha, b. Mar. 5, 1762, m. Seth Kellogg
- Eunice, b. Mar 18, 1764, m. George Wells
- Elihu, b. Mar 8, 1766, d. Mar. 27, 1766
- Esther, b. Apr. 2, 1768, m. William Ingham
- Abagail, b. Sept. 24, 1770, m. Green Welles

6 — Abagail White, eighth child of O. & A. White, b. Sept. 24, 1770. d. July 30, 1852. m. Feb. 11, 1789 Green Welles of Mapletown, b. Sept. 24, 1764. d. Dec. 15, 1845.

They removed to Vermont, N.Y. about 1800.

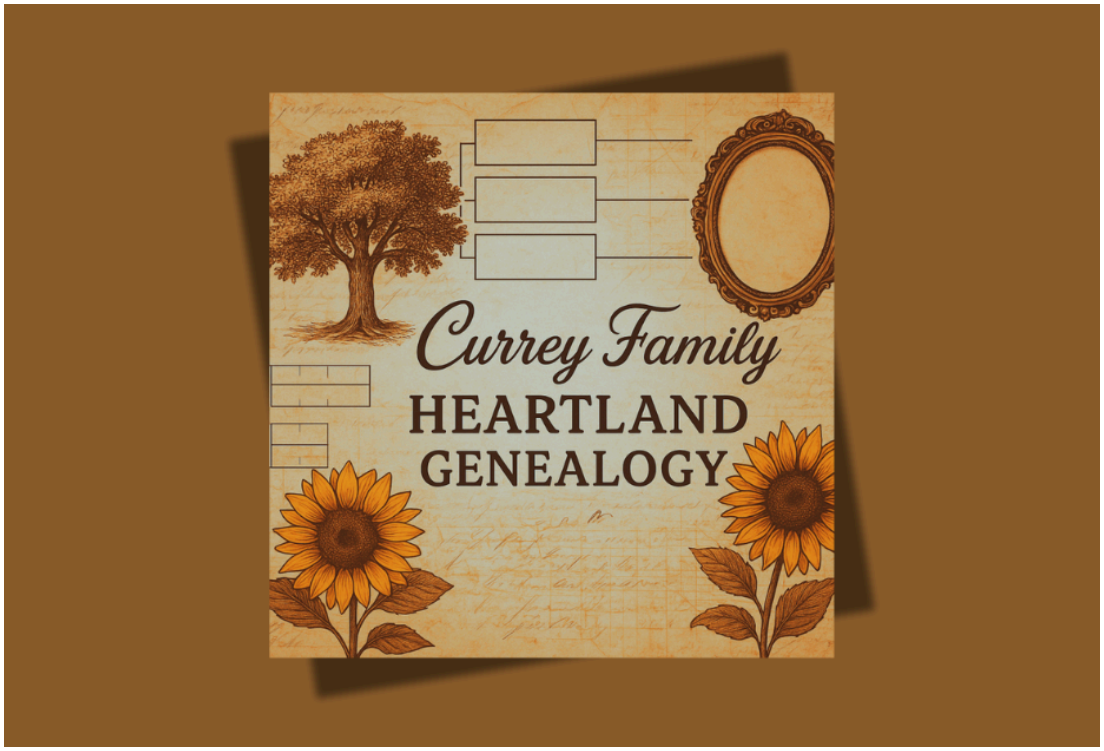
copied from “Memorials of Elder John White”



These handwritten notes are a reminder of how valuable earlier researchers’ work can be when paired with our own efforts. While we always need to verify the details, transcriptions like this provide a bridge between published sources and our modern family history research. By preserving and sharing these materials, we not only honor the work of those who came before us but also keep the connections alive across generations.

ABC Biography Earnest O. Currey

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
September 27, 2025
ABC Biography,Currey
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/09/27/abc-biography-earnest-o-currey/



Early Life and Family

Earnest Oran Currey was born on **April 5, 1906**, in Lansing, Leavenworth County, Kansas. He was the son of **Hiram Miles Currey** and **Winifred Mae "Winnie" Hutchinson**. He grew up with several siblings, including Winifred Crawford and Alma Greiner, who remained important figures in his life.

By 1910, the family had settled in Rooks County, Kansas, where young Earnest was listed as a four-year-old on the census. Fifteen years later, in the 1925 Kansas State Census, he appeared as a 17-year-old living with his parents in Logan, Gray County, Kansas.

Building a Life in Denver

Earnest relocated to Denver, Colorado, by the late 1920s. Over the years, he was listed in Denver city directories from 1929 through the 1930s, establishing himself in the community. By 1936, he was living at 419 S. Sherman Street.

In 1940, the census recorded him as a 34-year-old merchandiser, living in Denver with his wife and son. That same year, he registered for the World War II draft. Although there is no record of him serving in the military, his work as a merchandiser supported Denver families during the war years.

By 1945, Earnest was working as a supervisor at Montgomery Ward's ("Ward's"), a large and well-known department store. He continued his career there for many years. His addresses shifted around Denver—948 S. Sherman in 1943, 498 S. Sherman in 1948, and finally 819 S. Downing Street by the late 1950s, a home he kept through the remainder of his life.

In 1964, he joined siblings and extended relatives at a Currey family reunion in Sedona, Arizona, reflecting his continued closeness to family despite distance.

Marriage and Family

On **June 1, 1931**, Earnest married **Evelyn Marie Rasmussen** in Denver. Evelyn was born on **October 23, 1907**, to Peter Rasmussen and Anna Marie Costello. She grew up in Colorado and spent her entire life there with Earnest.

They had one son:

- **Earnest C. Currey**, born about 1934 in Colorado. He appeared in the 1940 census as a six-year-old living with his parents in Denver. By 1979, he was living in New Rochelle, New York.

Evelyn lived until **June 26, 1999**, passing away at the age of 91. She was laid to rest at Mount Olivet Cemetery in Wheat Ridge, Colorado, beside her husband.

Later Years and Passing

Earnest spent his later years in Denver, balancing his career at Ward's with his family life. On **May 25, 1979**, he died at the age of 73.

His obituary remembered him as:
"Earnest O. Currey, 819 S. Downing St. Husband of Evalyn Currey, Denver. Father of Earnest C. Currey, New Rochelle, N.Y. Brother of Winifred Crawford, Dodge City, Kans., Alma Greiner, Sedona, Ariz. Grandfather of Meghan Mara."

Services included a rosary, a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Francis De Sales Church in Denver, and burial at **Mount Olivet Cemetery** on **May 29, 1979**.

Historical Context

Earnest's life stretched across some of the most eventful decades in American history. Born in the early 20th century, he was a child during World War I and the influenza pandemic of 1918. His young adulthood coincided with the Great Depression, a time that influenced countless families in Kansas and Colorado.

During World War II, while he did not serve in the armed forces, he registered for the draft and contributed to the home front through his work in retail. In postwar Denver, the booming economy and suburban growth paralleled his own stability as a long-time employee of Montgomery Ward's.

Family ties remained important to him, as seen in reunions and the obituary mention of his siblings. He lived through a period of extraordinary change—horse-drawn carriages gave way to automobiles, radios to televisions, and small-town living to bustling city growth. Through it all, Earnest built a steady life rooted in family, faith, and work.

SOURCES

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4. 1910 U.S. Census, Rooks County, Kansas, population schedule, Twin Mound Township, Rooks County, Kansas, ED 168, Sheet 11A, Image 6 of 8, household 201, Currey Hiram M; digital images, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online November 2017); NARA microfilm publication T6224

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14. The Gazetteer Company's Denver City Directory 1947 (Denver: The Gazetteer Company, Publishers, 1947), page 412, Currey Earnest O; digital image, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online December 2017).

15. The Gazeteer Company, "Denver, Colorado City Directory, 1948 in collection of 'U.S. City Directories, 1822-1989'," image, Ancestry.com, Ancestry.com (http://www.ancestry.com : online 17 November 2015), Currey, Ernest O.

16. The Gazetteer Company's Denver City Directory 1958 (Denver: The Gazetteer Company, 1958), page 330, Earnest Currey; digital image, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online December 2017).

17. Assn. of North American Directory Publishers, "Denver, Colorado, City Directory, 1959 in collection titled 'U.S. City Directories, 1922-1989'," database, Ancestry.com, Ancestry.com (http://www.ancestry.com : online 17 November 2015), Currey, Ernest O.

18. Currey Siblings Taylor's Host Reunioni, Sedona, Arizona, August 1964, Crawford Family Papers, privately held by Marcia Philbrick, Seneca, KS 66538.

19. "Herbert M. Currey," Deseret News (Salt Lake City, Utah), 23 April 1971, page 28; digital images, Newspapers.com (www.newspapers.com : viewed online 10 July 2021).

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22. The Gazeteer Company, "Denver, Colorado City Directory, 1948 in collection of 'U.S. City Directories, 1822-1989'," image Currey, Ernest O.

23. "Colorado, County Marriages and State Indexes, 1853-2006," Ancestry.com, (www.ancestry.com : Denver, Colorado, ; #117774 viewed online (July 2017), Ernest O Currey – Evalyn Rasmussen.

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Saturday Night Genealogy Fun

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
September 28, 2025
SaturdayNightGenealogyFun
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/09/28/saturday-night-genealogy-fun-172/

Calling all Genea-Musings Fans:

It's Saturday Night again –

Time for some more Genealogy Fun!!

Your mission, should you decide to accept it (cue the Mission Impossible! music) is to:

1) Genealogy can be really fun. Please create, or have Artificial Intelligence create, a genealogy-related joke or funny story.

Normally, it takes a while to create a Saturday Night Genealogy Fun post. This prompt, however, was quick, easy and FUN. Thanks Randy!

My ChatGPT Prompt:

> Ignoring all of my Purple Heart related work, can you create a funny story about my genealogy journey?

And the Story:

> ### The Case of the Reluctant Ancestor
>
> One rainy afternoon, I sat down at my computer, armed with coffee, determination, and a brand-new DNA match notification. Somewhere in the depths of the internet, a cousin was waiting to be discovered.
>
> But things quickly went sideways.
>
> First, my great-great-grandfather refused to stay put in Indiana. According to census records, he had developed the peculiar habit of teleporting every ten years: Ohio, back to Indiana, over to Missouri, then somehow back again as if he were commuting via time machine instead of wagon. My notes looked less like genealogy and more like the itinerary of a rock band on tour.
>
> Next, a marriage record popped up. "Ah-ha!" I thought, triumphantly clicking on the image. Except, the bride's name wasn't familiar at all. After twenty minutes of muttering and cross-checking, I realized the record wasn't mine at all. Wrong county. Wrong couple. Wrong everything. In fact, I had accidentally discovered a man who married three times in six years and probably deserved his own reality TV show.
>
> Then came the crowning moment: FamilySearch suggested I add a mysterious "Zebulon the Farmer" to my tree. His only identifying feature was that his land was bounded on the west by "a big rock." I couldn't help but picture Zebulon squatting on his porch, shouting to the surveyor:
> "Don't overcomplicate it—just write 'the rock.' The family'll know which one."
>
> By the end of the day, my research notes looked like a crime board—arrows, sticky notes, and enough question marks to power an emoji factory.
>
> And yet, despite the chaos, I couldn't help but laugh. Because genealogy, at its core, isn't just about perfectly polished facts—it's about the chase, the surprises, and those ancestors who simply refuse to make things easy.

Monday's Diggings: Jacob Broyle Land Patent

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
September 29, 2025
Briles,Germanna,Virginia
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/09/29/mondays-diggings-jacob-broyle-land-patent/

Do you have old maps tucked away in your genealogy files? Today's find is a photocopy of a map titled *"First Patents of Land in Madison County, Virginia."* Unfortunately, the copy I have does not include the original source, but similar maps can be found online through several sites:

- Land Patent Maps on RootsWeb
- Germanna Second Colony Land Patent Map
- History Timeline – Madison County, Virginia
- Germanna History on Rootsweb

Curious to learn more, I used FamilySearch's full-text search to track down the actual land patent referenced on the map. The record appears in *Land Patents Book 13, 1725–1730*, for the colony of Virginia.

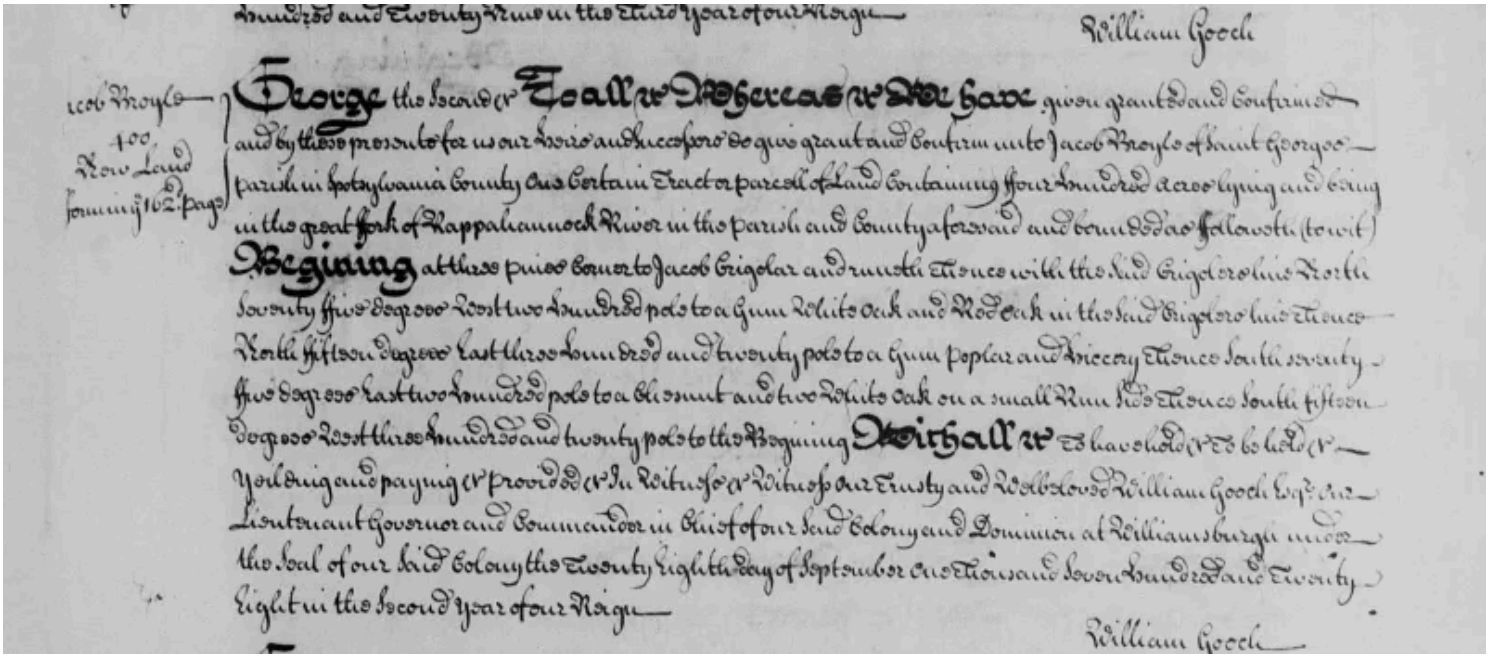
The grant, dated September 28, 1728, records George II's confirmation of 400 acres to **Jacob Broyle of St. George Parish, Spotsylvania County.** The description places the tract "in the great fork of Rappahannock River," with boundaries adjoining Jacob Grigolar's land. The survey details list corners marked by gum, poplar, hickory, chestnut, and white oak trees—natural features commonly used in early colonial land descriptions.

The document concludes with the official seal at Williamsburg and the signature of William Gooch, Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief of the Colony.

> Land Patents Book 13, 1725-1730
> State of Virginia
>
> "Virginia, British Colonial America records," images, FamilySearch (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C37S-J966-7?view=explore : Sep 22, 2025), image 407 of 561; . Image Group Number: 008570203
>
> # 400
>
> Jacob Broyle
>
> George the Second To all [whereas we] have given granted and confirmed
> and by these presents for us our heirs and successor to qive grant and confirm unto Jacob Broyle of Saint George parish in Spotsylvania County One Certain Tract or parcell of Land Containing four hundred acres lying and being in the great fork of Rappahannock River in the parish and County aforesaid and bounded as follows (to wit)

Beginning at the pines Corner to Jacob Grigolar and runeth thence with the said Criglero line North Seventy five degrees West two hundred pole to a Gum White Oak and Red Oak in the said Crigoloro line thence North fifteen degrees East three hundred and twenty pole to a Gum poplar and Hickory thence South seventy five degrees East two hundred pole to a chestnut and two white Oak on a small run Side thence South fifteen degrees west three hundred and twenty pole to the Begining With all to have holder a beholder yeilding and paying or provided In Witness or Witness our Trusty and Welbeloved William Good Esqr and Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief of our said Colony and Dominion at Williamsburgh under the Seal of our said Colony the Twenty Eighth day of September one thousand Seven hundred and twenty Eight in the Second year of our Reign

William Gooch



This combination of map and patent provides an invaluable glimpse into both the settlement patterns of the Germanna colonists and the legal framework of colonial Virginia. For descendants of Jacob Broyle and his neighbors, these records place families on the land and connect them to the broader story of Madison County's earliest years.

As genealogists, it's exciting when maps, patents, and records come together to paint a clearer picture of our ancestors' lives. In this case, the map of Madison County's earliest patents and the original 1728 grant to Jacob Broyle bring us back to the very moment when land was first claimed and settled. These documents don't just mark property lines—they anchor families like the Broyles to a place and time, allowing us to trace their stories forward through the generations.

Is It Online?

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
September 30, 2025
Artificial Intelligence,Nemaha County
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/09/30/is-it-online/

Helping Researchers Use the Nemaha County Historical Society Website

Do you ever vent in a Facebook group? Recently, I came across a post in the *Genealogy Chit Chat* group where someone shared their frustration about researchers relying solely on online sources. The author pointed out a good reason for this: not everyone lives close enough to access the resources that aren't available online.

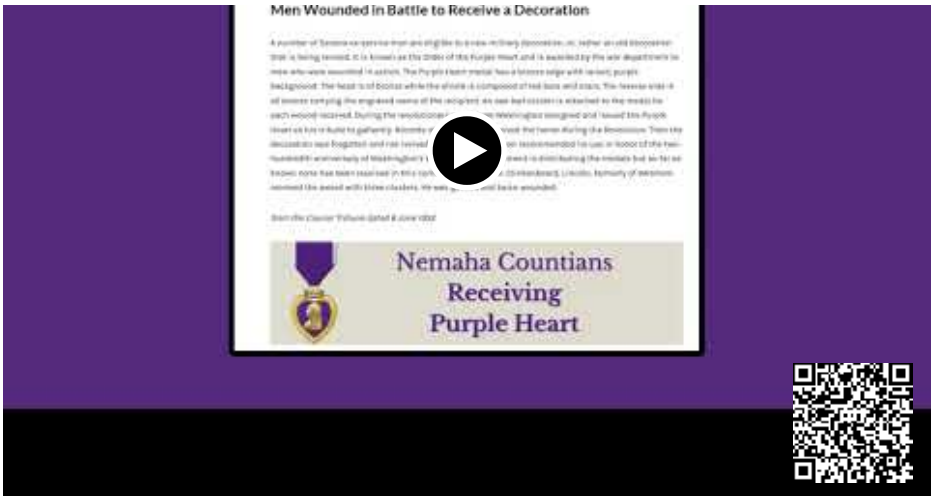
While I completely understand and agree with that perspective, I have a slightly different vent. As a volunteer with the Nemaha County Historical Society, I often feel frustrated that many researchers overlook the resources we *do* have available online. Thanks to partnerships with local libraries, FamilySearch, and a digitization project in collaboration with Nemaha Central Schools, there's now a wealth of Nemaha County material accessible to anyone willing to dig into our website.

To make it easier for researchers to understand what's available and how to use the site, I decided to create a video tutorial. Here's how I did it:

- Compiled all of the website's pages into a PDF
- Uploaded the PDF to **Google Notebook LM**, an AI tool I first learned about from Randy Seaver
- Asked Notebook LM to generate an **audio overview** explaining how to navigate the site
- Used **Canva** to pair that audio with **screenshots** from the website, creating a step-by-step video guide
- Uploaded the finished video to **YouTube** so it's easily accessible for researchers everywhere

The goal of this project is simple: to help genealogists and local history enthusiasts make the most of the rich resources already online.

https://youtube.com/watch?v=CO9nZw9XLxk



Using AI to Persuade Us

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
October 1, 2025
Artificial Intelligence
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/10/01/using-ai-to-persuade-us/

Thanks to the Genealogy and Artificial Intelligence Facebook group—and encouragement from Randy Seaver—I've become a frequent user of AI tools. I primarily rely on them for transcription, editing blog posts, and turning genealogy reports into narratives. Because of these experiences, I believe that learning to use AI responsibly should be a basic educational goal for all of us.

Recently, I've noticed something curious on my own Facebook feed. Posts keep appearing that I never liked, joined, or followed. They're not advertisements, either. Instead, they seem to be content Facebook's algorithm has decided I need to see. Many are about historical topics or the Kansas City Chiefs. At first, I found them interesting and even shared a few. But the more I read—especially the Chiefs-related ones—the more I started questioning their accuracy.

For example, one post claimed that Patrick Mahomes had traveled to Minnesota to place flowers at the memorial for children killed in the Annunciation Catholic School shooting and had even paid for their funerals. Knowing Mahomes is generous and active in charitable work, the claim didn't seem far-fetched. But I also wondered how he could be in Minnesota while still attending practices. That curiosity led me to do some fact-checking.

Remember when fact-checking was common practice? People would ask, "Did you check Snopes?" I didn't check Snopes.com this time, but I did ask ChatGPT. The result: nothing could be found to verify the story. That was enough for me to start clicking the **X** to hide these kinds of posts.

Another example involved a supposed quote from Travis Kelce.

mutual friends
Add friend
Remove
See all
Latest News · Follow
BREAKING NEWS: Travis Kelce just surprised the Kansas City Chiefs and the entire NFL with a shocking statement - "Football should not be associated with politics, stop mentioning Charlie Kirk because..."
Details in the comments 👇👇👇
"FOOTBALL SHOULD BE ABOUT THE GAME, THE COMPETITION, AND THE FANS - NOT POLITICS. STOP BRINGING UP CHARLIE KIRK, BECAUSE IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH WHAT WE DO ON THE FIELD."
-TRAVIS KELCE-
13.1K
4.4K comments 334 shares
Like
Comment
Share

While he may or may not have said it, once again ChatGPT could not confirm any source for the statement.

4:54
ChatGPT
I didn't find any credible source that shows Travis Kelce made a statement about football and Charlie Kirk as of now.
There is something related though: there's a fake quote being circulated online attributed to George Kittle, saying things like "Football should be about the game, the competition, and the fans — no politics. Stop bringing up Charlie Kirk ..." That quote has been denied by Kittle.
If you want, I can dig further to see if there's any unreported statement by Kelce, or check recent interviews. Do you want me to look?
Sources
Ask anything

I'm increasingly convinced that many of these posts are being generated by AI and shared with the intent to persuade—or mislead—us. That's why it's important to dust off some old skills and apply them in this new environment:

- **Fact Check**: Use Snopes.com, PolitiFact, or similar tools to verify questionable claims.
- **Quality Check the Source**: As genealogists, we know that a marriage license is stronger evidence than a family tree entry. The same logic applies to news: a report with clear sourcing carries more weight than "someone said …."

AI tools can be powerful for research and writing. But they can also be used to distort and manipulate. It's up to us to recognize the difference—and to keep questioning what shows up in our feeds.

Crawford Land

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
October 2, 2025
Augusta County,Crawford,Land Records
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/10/02/crawford-land/

Have you ever used land records to connect family members? That's the challenge I've taken on—using early Virginia land and court records to sort out the tangled Crawford family lines.

Recently, I located a deed in Botetourt County where Andrew Crawford and his mother, Margery, sold land. That discovery led me to the next logical question: when and how did they acquire that land in the first place?

Since FamilySearch lists James Crawford as the husband of Margery and father of Andrew, I turned to FamilySearch's Full Text Search to look for a deed involving James Crawford. At first, I came up empty. So I adjusted my strategy—searching not only for names but also for the landmarks, boundary lines, and descriptive phrases connected to the property.

That persistence finally paid off. In Book 7 of the Augusta County, Virginia, deeds, I uncovered a record where James Campbell and his wife, Elisabeth, sold 181 acres of land to James Crawford. This document provides a vital piece in the puzzle, linking James directly to land ownership and offering a firmer foundation for tracing his family line.

Finding the deed in the Augusta County records not only confirmed James Crawford's ownership but also preserved the details of the land itself—boundaries, neighbors, and the legal language of the time. For genealogists, these words are more than legal formalities; they are clues that connect families and communities. Below is a transcription of the deed where James Campbell and his wife Elisabeth sold 181 acres to James Crawford.

> Deed Book 7, 1755-1758, AUgusta County VA
> Film 7893720 item 3
>
> "Augusta, Virginia, British Colonial America records," images, FamilySearch (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS4H-87T4-Q?view=explore : Jun 26, 2025), image 163 of 284; .
> Image Group Number: 007893720
>
> Image 163 of 284
> attach to https://www.familysearch.org/en/tree/person/details/L5FF-1NF
>
> This Indenture , Made the Eighteenth Day of
> May in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven hundred and fifty Six
> Between James Campbell and Elizabeth Campbell his wife of the
> County of Augusta of the one part and James Crawford of the same County of
> the other part Witnesseth , That for and in Consideration of the sum of Eighteen

Pounds Current Money of Virginia to the said James Campbell and Elizabeth Campbell in Hand paid , by the said James Crawford at or before the sealing and Delivery of these Presents , the Receipt whereof he doth hereby acknowledge and thereof doth release , acquit and discharge the said James Crawford and his Heirs Executors and Administrators by these Presents ; them the said James Campbell and Elisabeth his wife Hath Granted , Bargained , Sold Aliened Released , and Confirmed and by these Presents , Doth Grant , Bargain , Sell Alien Release and Confirm , unto the and said James Crawford, in his actual Possession now being by Virtue of a Bargain and Sale to him thereof made by the said James Campbell and Elisabeth his wife for One whole Year , by indenture , bearing Date the Day next before the Day of the Date of these presents and by Force of the Statute for Transferring Uses into Possession and his Heirs one Certain tract or parcel of Land containing one hundred and Eighty one Acres being part of that tract where James Campbell now liveth in the fork of James River and is bounded as followeth Begining at a Bunch of Linns on the bank of the North River Corner to Robert Mc[Elb]ney and Runeth with his lines and John Wileys North Sixteen Degrees west three hundred & Eight poles to two Pines Corner to sd Wileys Lane then South 30 Degrees W. two hundred poles to two White oakes corner to James Campbell thence his Lines south East 100 poles to a post South West 64 poles to two hicorys South last 40 poles to a White oake North East 64 poles crossing a branch to two Red oaks South East 64 poles to a Seader and hicory an a Steep bank of the River thence up the River to the begining and all Houses , Buildings , Orchards , Ways Waters Water – Courses Profits , Commodities , Hereditaments , and appurtenances whatsoever . to the said Premisses hereby Granted , or any part thereof belonging , or in , anywise appurtaining : , And the Reversion and Reversions Remainder and Remainders Rents , Issues , and profits thereof : and also all the Estate Right Title Interest Up , Trust property , claim , and Demand whatsoever of them the said James Campbell and Elizabeth his wife of in and to the said Premisses and all Deeds , , evidences and writings touching or in any wise concerning the same To have and to hold the said one hundred and Eighty Acres of Land be the same more or Less and all and Singular other the Premisses hereby Granted and Released , and every part and parcel

314

therewith their and every , of their appurtenances unto the said Jas Craword and his heirs and assigns , for ever; to the only proper Use and Behoof of him the Said James Crafford and his Heirs and assigns for ever . And the said James Campbell and Elisabeth his wife for him his Heirs Executors and administrators doth Covenant , Promise , and Grant to and with the said James Crafford Heirs and assigns by these presents that the said James Campbell and Elisabeth his wife now at the time of Sealing and Delivering of these presents are Seised of a good sure perfect and indefeasible Estate of Inheritance in fee Simple of , and in the Premisses hereby Granted and released . And that he hath good power and lawfull and absolute authority to grant and convey the Same to the said James Craford in Manner and form aforesaid , and that the said Premisses now are and so forever hereafter shall remain and be free and clear of and from all former and other Gifts , Grants Bargains , Sales , Dower , Right and title of Dower Judgments , Executions , Titles Troubles Charges and Incumbrances whatsoever made done committed or suffered by the said James Campbell and Elizabeth his Wife or any other person or Persons whatsoever (the Quit Clents hereafter to grow due and payable to our sovereign Lord the King his Heirs and Successors for and in Respect of the said Premisses only Excepted and foreprized) and Lastly that the said James Campbell and Elizabeth his wife and their Heirs all and singular the Premisses hereby Granted and Released with their Appurtenances unto the said James Craford and his heirs Heirs and assigns against them the said James Campbell and Elisabeth his wife and their Heirs and all and Every other Person and Persons whatsoever shall and will warrant , and forever defend by these Presents in witness whereof the said James Campbell and Elisabeth his wife hath hereunto set their Hand and Seals the Day and Year first above written

James Campbell (seal)

Elisabth (her mark) Campbell (seal)

Sealed and Delivered }
in the Presence of
Richard Woods
Joh Lapefly
William Hall

> At a Court held for Augusta County May the 19th 1766
> This Release for Land Indented from James Campbell & Elisabeth his wife to James Crawford was proved by the Oaths of the Witness thereto subscribed & on the Motion of the said Crawford Admitted to Record
> Test [?] [M]adison

Researching early Virginia deeds can feel like searching for a needle in a haystack, but every document adds another piece to the family history puzzle. The Augusta County deed linking James Crawford to this land ownership not only provides evidence of his presence in the area but also strengthens the connection to Margery and Andrew. Each record uncovered—whether through persistence, creative search strategies, or sheer luck—helps us better understand how these early families lived, worked, and passed down their legacy.

Friday Find

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
October 3, 2025
Kennedy,Michigan,New York,Wells
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/10/03/friday-find-94/

Kennedy Family

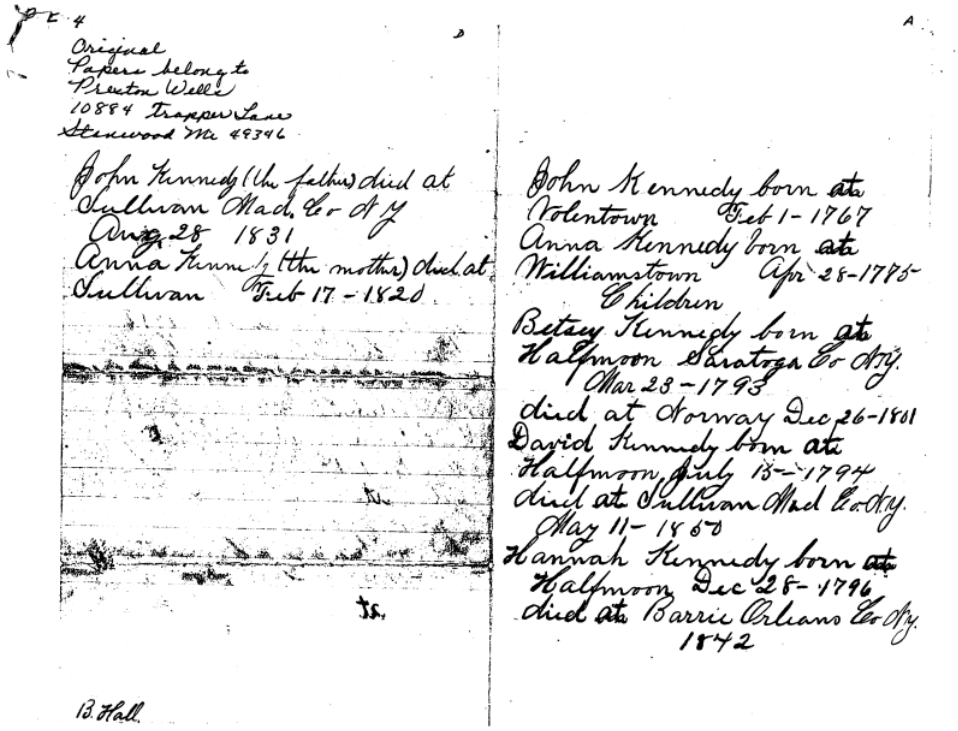
Today's Friday Find features another set of handwritten family records preserved in the collection of Preston Wells of Michigan—my 3rd cousin once removed. Preston and I share common ancestors in Ozias Wells and Mary Kennedy. These notes shed light on the family of Mary's father, **John Kennedy**, providing valuable details about his life, his wife Anna, and their children.

> Original
> Papers belong to
> Trenton Weell
> 10884 Trapper Lane
> Sterwood, Mo 42346
>
> John Kennedy (the father) died at
> Sullivan, Mad. Co., N.Y.
> Aug. 28 – 1831
>
> Anna Kennedy (the mother) died at
> Sullivan
> Feb. 17 – 1820
>
> B. Hall
>
> RIGHT COLUMN:
>
> John Kennedy born at
> Volentown Feb 1 – 1767
>
> Anna Kennedy born at
> Williamstown Apr 28 – 1775
>
> **Children**
>
> Betsey Kennedy born at
> Halfmoon, Saratoga Co., N.Y.

Mar. 23 – 1793
Died at Norway Dec. 26 – 1801

David Kennedy born at
Halfmoon July 15 – 1794
Died at Sullivan, Mad. Co., N.Y.
May 11 – 1850

Hannah Kennedy born at
Halfmoon Dec. 28 – 1796
Died at Barrie, Orleans Co., N.Y.
1842


Original
Papers belong to
Preston Wells
10884 Trapper Lane
Stanwood Mi 49346

John Kennedy (the father) died at
Sullivan Mad. Co. N.Y.
Aug 28 1831
Anna Kennedy (the mother) died at
Sullivan Feb 17 - 1820

John Kennedy born at
Volentown Feb 1- 1767
Anna Kennedy born at
Williamstown Apr 28-1775-
Children
Betsey Kennedy born at
Halfmoon Saratoga Co N.Y.
Mar 23-1793
died at Norway Dec 26-1801
David Kennedy born at
Halfmoon July 15-1794
died at Sullivan Mad Co. N.Y.
May 11- 1850
Hannah Kennedy born at
Halfmoon Dec 28- 1796
died at Barrie Orleans Co N.Y.
1842

B. Hall

SECOND PAGE

Mary Kennedy born at
Halfmoon Oct 21 – 1799
Died at Calamo Eaton Co. Mich
Mar 23 – 1885

Lucinda Kennedy born at
Norway May 22 – 1801
Died at Quincy Mich Apr 2 – 1895

Betsey Kennedy born at
Norway Oct 6 – 1802
Died at Darien Gen Co. N.Y.
July 11 – 1881

Achsha Kennedy born at
Norway June 19 – 1804
Died at Adrian Leneway Co.
Mich Aug 27 – 1845

John Kennedy born at
Norway Oct 3 – 1806
Died at Eckford Calhoun Co. Mich
Dec 1843

RIGHT COLUMN

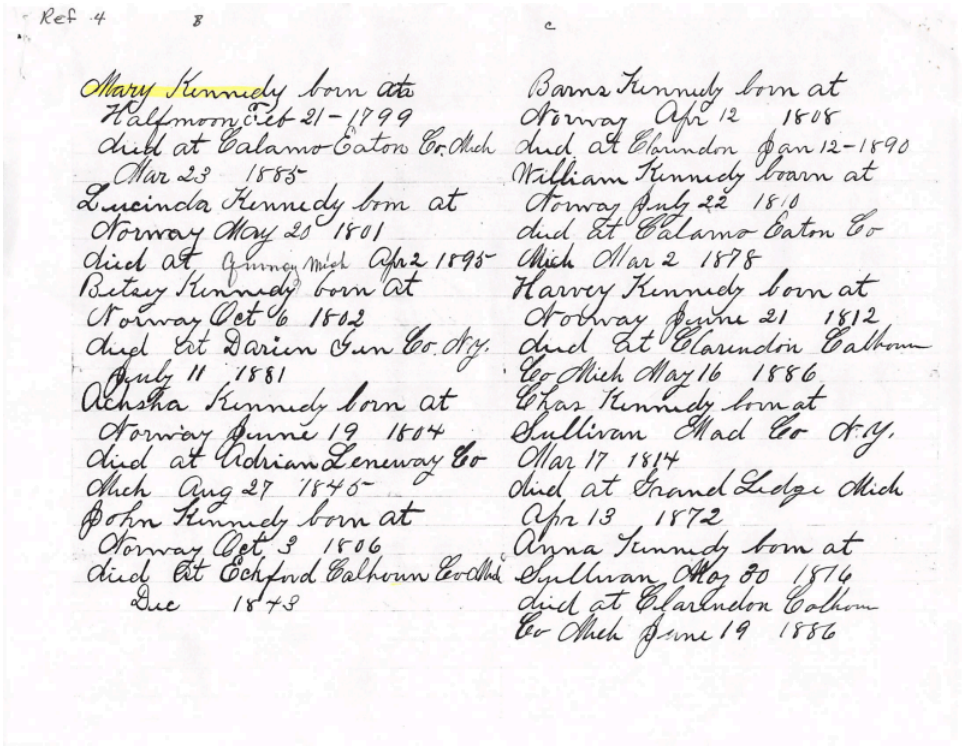
Barns Kennedy born at
Norway Apr 12 – 1808
Died at Clarendon Jan 12 – 1890

William Kennedy born at
Norway July 22 – 1810
Died at Calamo Eaton Co.
Mich Mar 2 – 1878

Harvey Kennedy born at
Norway June 21 – 1812
Died at Clarendon Eaton
Co. Mich May 16 – 1886

Chas Kennedy born at
Sullivan Mad Co. N.Y.
Mar 17 – 1814
Died at Grand Lodge Mich
Apr 13 – 1872

Anna Kennedy born at
Sullivan May 30 – 1816
Died at Clarendon Eaton
Co. Mich June 19 – 1886


Ref 4 B C

Mary Kennedy born at
Halfmoon Oct 21 – 1799
died at Calamo Eaton Co. Mich
Mar 23 1885
Lucinda Kennedy born at
Norway May 20 1801
died at Grinnell Mich Apr 2 1895
Betsey Kennedy born at
Norway Oct 6 1802
died at Darien Gen Co. N.Y.
July 11 1881
Achsha Kennedy born at
Norway June 19 1804
died at Adrian Lenawee Co
Mich Aug 27 1845
John Kennedy born at
Norway Oct 3 1806
died at Eckford Calhoun Co Mich
Dec 1878

Barns Kennedy born at
Norway Apr 12 1808
died at Clarendon Jan 12-1890
William Kennedy born at
Norway July 22 1810
died at Calamo Eaton Co
Mich Mar 2 1878
Harvey Kennedy born at
Norway June 21 1812
died at Clarendon Calhoun
Co Mich May 16 1886
Chas Kennedy born at
Sullivan Mad Co N.Y.
Mar 17 1814
died at Grand Ledge Mich
Apr 13 1872
Anna Kennedy born at
Sullivan May 30 1816
died at Clarendon Calhoun
Co Mich June 19 1886

Having used ChatGPT to do the transcriptions, the AI tool asked if I would like the information in a ‘family genealogy register’ type report, which it produced.

Kennedy Family Genealogical Register

Parents

- **John Kennedy**
  Born: 1 Feb 1767, Volentown
  Died: 28 Aug 1831, Sullivan, Madison Co., New York
- **Anna (—) Kennedy**
  Born: 28 Apr 1775, Williamstown
  Died: 17 Feb 1820, Sullivan, Madison Co., New York

Children

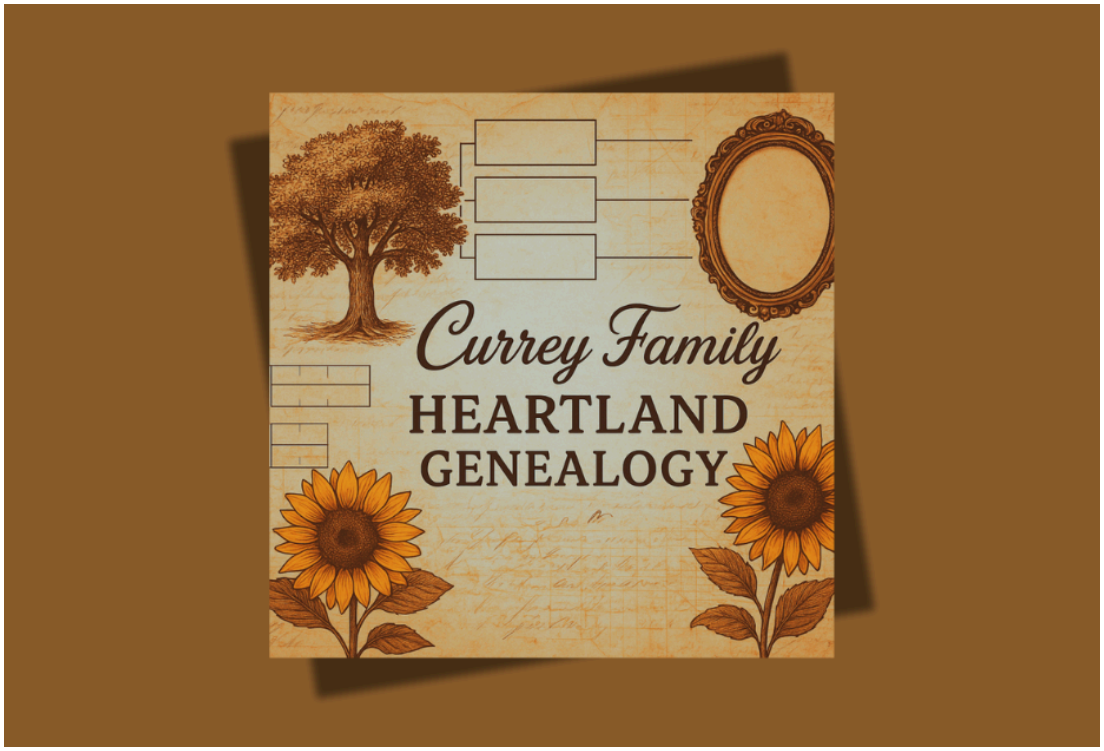
1. **Betsey Kennedy**
   Born: 23 Mar 1793, Halfmoon, Saratoga Co., New York
   Died: 26 Dec 1801, Norway

2. **David Kennedy**
   Born: 15 Jul 1794, Halfmoon, Saratoga Co., New York
   Died: 11 May 1850, Sullivan, Madison Co., New York
3. **Hannah Kennedy**
   Born: 28 Dec 1796, Halfmoon, Saratoga Co., New York
   Died: 1842, Barrie, Orleans Co., New York
4. **Mary Kennedy**
   Born: 21 Feb 1799, Halfmoon, Saratoga Co., New York
   Died: 23 Mar 1885, Calamo, Eaton Co., Michigan
5. **Lucinda Kennedy**
   Born: 20 May 1801, Norway
   Died: 2 Apr 1895, Quincy, Michigan
6. **Betsey Kennedy (second of name, likely named after deceased sister)**
   Born: 6 Oct 1802, Norway
   Died: 11 Jul 1881, Darien, Genesee Co., New York
7. **Achsha Kennedy**
   Born: 19 Jun 1804, Norway
   Died: 27 Aug 1845, Adrian, Leneway Co., Michigan
8. **John Kennedy (Jr.)**
   Born: 3 Oct 1806, Norway
   Died: Dec 1843, Eckford, Calhoun Co., Michigan
9. **Barns Kennedy**
   Born: 12 Apr 1808, Norway
   Died: 12 Jan 1890, Clarendon
10. **William Kennedy**
    Born: 22 Jul 1810, Norway
    Died: 2 Mar 1878, Calamo, Eaton Co., Michigan
11. **Harvey Kennedy**
    Born: 21 Jun 1812, Norway
    Died: 16 May 1886, Clarendon, Eaton Co., Michigan
12. **Chas Kennedy**
    Born: 17 Mar 1814, Sullivan, Madison Co., New York
    Died: 13 Apr 1872, Grand Ledge, Michigan
13. **Anna Kennedy**
    Born: 30 May 1816, Sullivan, Madison Co., New York
    Died: 19 Jun 1886, Clarendon, Eaton Co., Michigan

These handwritten notes provide a rare glimpse into the lives of John and Anna Kennedy and their thirteen children, tracing the family's movement from New York into Michigan. By carefully recording births, deaths, and places of residence, the notes preserve a family story that might otherwise have been lost. For me, they not only highlight the value of preserving original documents, but also strengthen my connection to this branch of my family tree through Mary Kennedy, my direct ancestor.

ABC Biography: Alma Jean Currey

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
October 4, 2025
Artificial Intelligence,Currey
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/10/04/abc-biography-alma-jean-currey/



Early Life

Alma Jean Currey was born on **April 5, 1912**, in **Plainville, Rooks County, Kansas**, to **Hiram M. Currey** and his wifeNarrative Report for Alma Jean …. A short notice in the *Plainville Times* shared the happy news: *"A little daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Currey Thursday of last week."*

Tragically, Alma's mother passed away when Alma was just a year and a half old. With her father struggling to raise his young children, Alma went to live with the DeShazer family in Ottawa, Kansas. The 1920 U.S. census lists seven-year-old Alma as a boarder in their householdNarrative Report for Alma Jean ….

By 1925, Alma was reunited with her father in **Gray County, Kansas**, while two of her older sisters, Myrtle and Winnie, lived nearby in Ford CountyNarrative Report for Alma Jean ….

Marriage and Family Life

At just 17 years old, Alma married **Joseph Johnson "Bud" Taylor** on **December 14, 1929**, in Olathe, Johnson County, KansasNarrative Report for Alma Jean …. Their marriage came at a challenging time—the Great Depression had just begun.

The couple lived in Kansas City, Kansas, where Joseph worked as a **casket trimmer**. Census records show them in Perry, Jefferson County, Kansas, in 1940, where they were raising their familyNarrative Report for Alma Jean ….

Together, Alma and Joseph had four children:

- **Jerry Joe Taylor** (1932–2001), who married Beverly Viann Borthick.
- **Ronald Taylor** (born 1935), who later married Deena.
- **William Dean Taylor** (1938–2011), who married Ruth in 2000.
- **Edith Sue Taylor** (1947–2016), who married Bobby RynearsonNarrative Report for Alma Jean ….

Over the years, the family moved from Kansas to Illinois, and later to California. By the mid-1940s, they were living in Los Angeles and later in the nearby community of BellNarrative Report for Alma Jean ….

Later Years

Joseph Taylor passed away in **1967** at the age of 56, and was buried in Sedona, ArizonaNarrative Report for Alma Jean …. Alma continued to build a life of her own. She attended a **Currey family reunion in Sedona in 1964**, keeping strong family tiesNarrative Report for Alma Jean ….

In **1974**, Alma married again—this time to **Nate Henry Grenier** in Sedona. Nate, born in 1906, lived until 1996, and he too was buried in SedonaNarrative Report for Alma Jean ….

Alma lived in Sedona from the late 1960s onward, enjoying the community and its scenic surroundings.

Death and Legacy

On **September 7, 1989**, Alma passed away at the age of 77 at **Good Samaritan Hospital in Phoenix, Arizona**. Her obituary in the *Arizona Daily Sun* read:

*"Alma J. Grenier, a Sedona resident, died Sept. 7 in Good Samaritan Hospital in Phoenix. She was 77. Services were today at the First Baptist Church, Sedona, with burial in the Sedona Community Cemetery. Mrs. Grenier was born April 5, 1912, in Plainville, Kans. She moved to Arizona in 1969 from California. Survivors are her husband, N. Henry Grenier, Sedona; a son, Ronald Taylor, living in California; and a sister, Winnie Crawford of Dodge City, Kan."*Narrative Report for Alma Jean …

Alma was laid to rest at **Sedona Community Cemetery** on September 11, 1989Narrative Report for Alma Jean ….

Historical Context

Alma's life spanned much of the 20th century. She was born just before World War I, grew up during the 1920s, and entered adulthood as the Great Depression reshaped American life. She raised her family during World War II, when cities like Los Angeles swelled with war industries and opportunity.

In later years, Alma was part of the great westward migration, leaving the Midwest behind for California and then Arizona. Sedona, where she spent her final decades, was transforming during the 1960s and 70s into a vibrant community known for its red rock landscapes, tourism, and retirement living.

Through all these changes, Alma remained closely tied to her family and her roots. Her journey from the Kansas plains to the Arizona desert mirrors the broader story of many American families in the 20th century—marked by resilience, adaptation, and strong family bonds.

October Weekends at Acorns Resort

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
October 5, 2025
Crawford
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/10/05/october-weekends-at-acorns-resort/

Since Octoere 2013, October has meant more than pumpkins and falling leaves for the Crawford family—it has meant gathering at Acorns Resort on Lake Milford, just north of Junction City, Kansas. What began as a simple family getaway has grown into a cherished tradition filled with campfires, games, and plenty of laughter.

A Weekend by the Lake

Each year, the cabins at Acorns Resort become a temporary home where everyday routines give way to the slower rhythm of the lake. The days are spent walking along wooded trails, piecing together puzzles, watching football, and simply enjoying the company of family. Evenings gather everyone around the fire, where stories are shared under a sky full of stars.

Around the Campfire

The tradition began with three siblings—Dave, Terry, and Marcia Crawford—bringing their families together. Over the years, the circle around the fire has included:

- **Dave and Kathy Crawford** with their daughter Katie, her husband Lucas Loughmiller, and their daughter Stella. Dave and Kathy's son, Mathew, also attends with his wife Laura and their children Lula and Mac.
- **Terry and Tina Crawford** with their daughters Lauren (and her husband Jeremiah Driessel) and Sarah (with her boyfriend Gannon).

In earlier years, the family matriarch, Roberta, joined the gatherings, her presence deeply felt even after health prevented her from attending. Mike, Marcia's husband, also came for a time, though his smoke allergy eventually kept him away from the campfire.

Traditions Old and New

No weekend is complete without a few rounds of silly games like "20 Questions" about animals. Someone is always working on a puzzle while others cheer on a football game. Walks by the lake and late-night star gazing have become yearly rituals, grounding the family in simple joys.

Why It Matters

What began as one weekend away has turned into a touchstone for the Crawford family, a reminder that traditions don't have to be elaborate to be meaningful. In gathering at Acorns Resort each October, the family has built a legacy of laughter, connection, and shared memories—stories that will be told for years to come.

Monday Diggings

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
October 6, 2025
Briles,North Carolina
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/10/06/monday-diggings-2/

Frederick Broils Land Grant

Do you have photocopies of old land deeds tucked away in your research files? When I opened my **BRILES–North Carolina** folder, I discovered four such photocopies—unfortunately without any source information.

My first thought was that FamilySearch's **Full Text Search** capability would quickly help me track them down and create proper citations. I tried searching for both *Fredrick Broils* and *Frederick Broils,* but none of the results seemed to match my photocopies.

Digging a little deeper into the folder, I came across a photocopy of the **Grantees Index** with handwritten notes beside some of the BRILES / BROILS / BROYLES entries. Thankfully, I had written down the microfilm numbers. Using those notes, I went to the Randolph County, North Carolina records, expanded the land records section, and located the correct book. There, on page 169 of Book 3, I found a land grant for 100 acres issued to Frederick Broils.

Since the very next page contained a land grant for **Adam Broils**, I decided to test the Full Text Search again—and this time, I easily found Adam's deed. Unfortunately, Frederick's deed proved much harder to locate. The only way I could bring it up in the Full Text Search was by entering a very specific phrase:

```
+"seven hundred" +"eight seven" +"one hundred acres"
```

This little exercise was a good reminder that, while powerful, **full-text searching isn't foolproof.** Sometimes the old-fashioned indexes are still the most reliable way to uncover the records we need.

n the end, this search reinforced the value of those little details we sometimes overlook—like scribbled microfilm numbers or photocopies of index pages. Even in the age of powerful digital tools, those older research habits and notes can make all the difference in finding the record we're after. Combining modern technology with traditional methods often provides the clearest path to uncovering our ancestors' stories.

Sellers DNA Provides Major Hint to My Crawford Ancestry

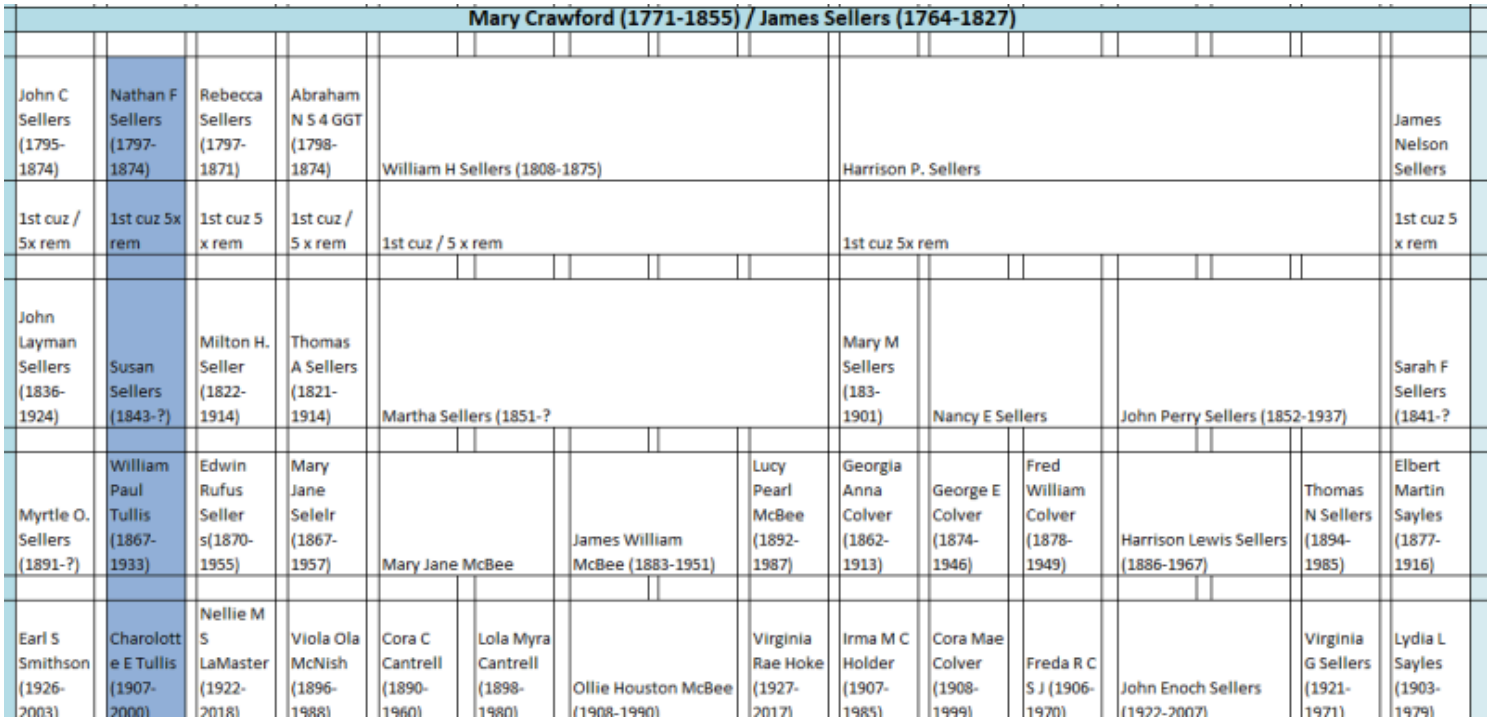
By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
October 7, 2025
Crawford,DNA,Sellers
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/10/07/sellers-dna-provides-major-hint-to-my-crawford-ancestry/

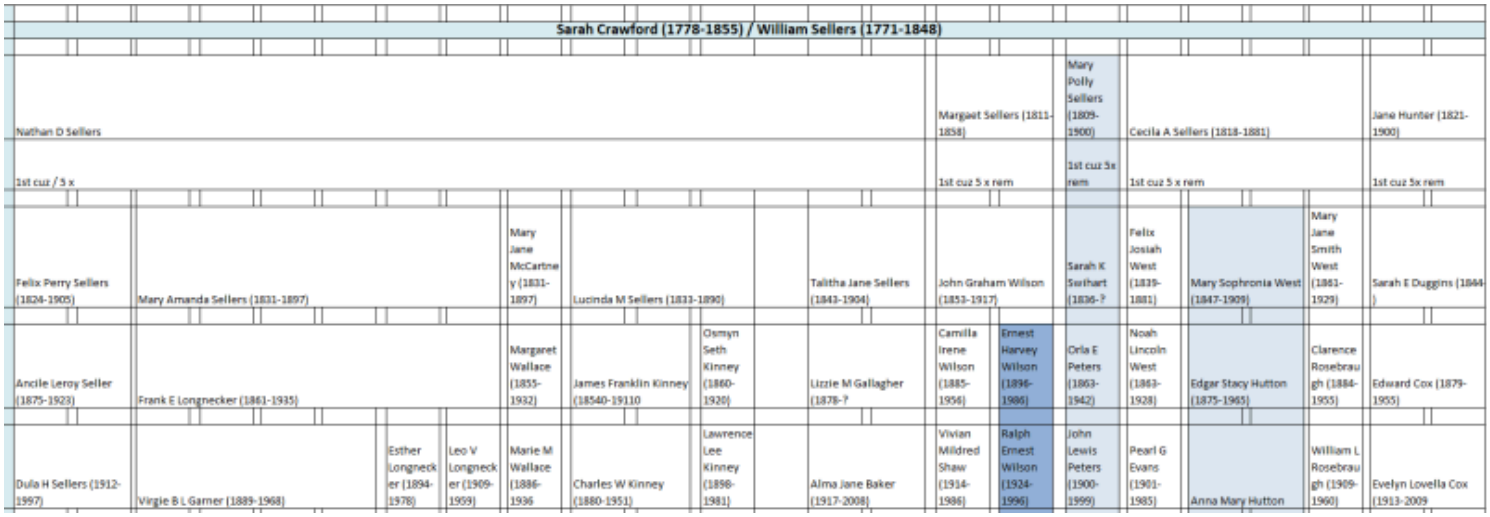
Do you have DNA matches to members of your FAN club that you just can't place in your family tree? That's been my struggle with my SELLERS matches.

When I experiment with my Ancestry tree and list Rebekah Douglass Crawford as the mother of my ancestor, James Crawford, those SELLERS matches suddenly appear in ThruLines. Not only does ThruLines connect me to descendants of Mary Crawford Sellers and Sarah Crawford Sellers, but it also identifies a handful of descendants of the James Crawford who married Martha Knight.

Building the Evidence with Charts and GedMatch

To better visualize these connections, I began creating a McGuire chart showing how the SELLERS matches descend from Mary and Sarah.


Mary Crawford (1771-1855) / James Sellers (1764-1827)
John C Sellers (1795-1874)
Nathan F Sellers (1797-1874)
Rebecca Sellers (1797-1871)
Abraham N S 4 GGT (1798-1874)
William H Sellers (1808-1875)
Harrison P. Sellers
James Nelson Sellers
1st cuz / 5x rem
1st cuz 5x rem
1st cuz 5 x rem
1st cuz / 5 x rem
1st cuz / 5 x rem
1st cuz 5x rem
1st cuz 5 x rem
John Layman Sellers (1836-1924)
Susan Sellers (1843-?)
Milton H. Seller (1822-1914)
Thomas A Sellers (1821-1914)
Martha Sellers (1851-?
Mary M Sellers (183-1901)
Nancy E Sellers
John Perry Sellers (1852-1937)
Sarah F Sellers (1841-?
Myrtle O. Sellers (1891-?)
William Paul Tullis (1867-1933)
Edwin Rufus Seller s(1870-1955)
Mary Jane Selelr (1867-1957)
Mary Jane McBee
James William McBee (1883-1951)
Lucy Pearl McBee (1892-1987)
Georgia Anna Colver (1862-1913)
George E Colver (1874-1946)
Fred William Colver (1878-1949)
Harrison Lewis Sellers (1886-1967)
Thomas N Sellers (1894-1985)
Elbert Martin Sayles (1877-1916)
Earl S Smithson (1926-2003)
Charolotte E Tullis (1907-2000)
Nellie M S LaMaster (1922-2018)
Viola Ola McNish (1896-1988)
Cora C Cantrell (1890-1960)
Lola Myra Cantrell (1898-1980)
Ollie Houston McBee (1908-1990)
Virginia Rae Hoke (1927-2017)
Irma M C Holder (1907-1985)
Cora Mae Colver (1908-1999)
Freda R C S J (1906-1970)
John Enoch Sellers (1922-2007)
Virginia G Sellers (1921-1971)
Lydia L Sayles (1903-1979)


Sarah Crawford (1778-1855) / William Sellers (1771-1848)
Nathan D Sellers
Margaet Sellers (1811-1858)
Mary Polly Sellers (1809-1900)
Cecila A Sellers (1818-1881)
Jane Hunter (1821-1900)
1st cuz / 3 x
1st cuz 5 x rem
1st cuz 3x rem
1st cuz 5 x rem
1st cuz 5x rem
Felix Perry Sellers (1824-1905)
Mary Amanda Sellers (1831-1897)
Mary Jane McCartney (1831-1897)
Lucinda M Sellers (1833-1890)
Talitha Jane Sellers (1843-1904)
John Graham Wilson (1853-1917)
Sarah K Swihart (1836-?
Felix Josiah West (1839-1881)
Mary Sophronia West (1847-1909)
Mary Jane Smith West (1861-1929)
Sarah E Duggins (1844-)
Ancile Leroy Seller (1875-1923)
Frank E Longnecker (1861-1935)
Margaret Wallace (1855-1932)
James Franklin Kinney (18540-19110
Osmyn Seth Kinney (1860-1920)
Lizzie M Gallagher (1878-?
Camilla Irene Wilson (1885-1956)
Ernest Harvey Wilson (1896-1986)
Orla E Peters (1863-1942)
Noah Lincoln West (1863-1928)
Edgar Stacy Hutton (1875-1965)
Clarence Rosebraugh (1884-1955)
Edward Cox (1879-1955)
Dula H Sellers (1912-1997)
Virgie B L Garner (1889-1968)
Esther Longnecker (1894-1978)
Leo V Longnecker (1909-1959)
Marie M Wallace (1886-1936
Charles W Kinney (1880-1951)
Lawrence Lee Kinney (1896-1981)
Alma Jane Baker (1917-2008)
Vivian Mildred Shaw (1914-1986)
Ralph Ernest Wilson (1924-1996)
John Lewis Peters (1900-1999)
Pearl G Evans (1901-1985)
Anna Mary Hutton
William L Rosebraugh (1909-1960)
Evelyn Lovella Cox (1913-2009

Hoping to strengthen the case, I turned to GedMatch. A one-to-many search revealed that one of these SELLERS matches was also on GedMatch.

Running an autosomal one-to-one comparison showed a shared segment on chromosome one.

Chr	B37 Start Pos'n	B37 End Pos'n	Centimorgans (cM)	SNPs	Segment threshold	Bunch limit	SNP Density Ratio
1	110,213,458	154,573,967	18.4	2,343	202	121	0.24

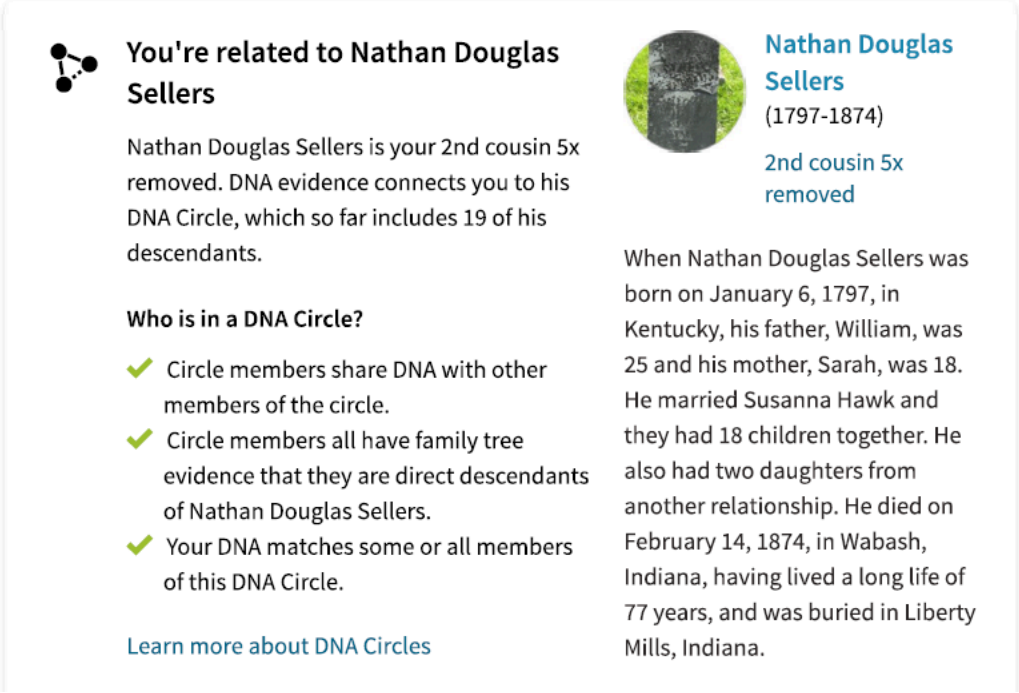
Image size reduction: 1/33

Using GedMatch Pro Tools, I identified other matches who share that same DNA segment, including some of my known Ancestry matches. That gives me strong DNA evidence connecting me to this group of SELLERS descendants.

JL6766136	☐	1	109357456	159173887	25	1205	[redacted]ner	F	tv[redacted]*@yahoo.com	[redacted]
A636913	☐	1	109696968	154692088	19.2	3906	[redacted]ier	M	g[redacted]@gmail.com	[redacted]
WP5197017	☐	1	109768889	159174920	24.6	4983	[redacted]per	F	t[redacted]@yahoo.com	[redacted]
TJ3428578	☐	1	109768889	159174920	24.6	3105	[redacted]er	F	tv[redacted]*@yahoo.com	[redacted]
YH8995472	☐	1	110148974	162455562	30.7	2658	[redacted]art	F	S[redacted]*@gmail.com	[redacted]
A204703	☐	1	110156212	154693513	18.6	2372	[redacted]son	F	[redacted]@gmail.com	[redacted]
A430561	☐	1	110213458	154573967	18.4	2343	[redacted]itt	M	g[redacted]@gmail.com	[redacted]
A893463	☐	1	110213458	154692088	18.5	3856	[redacted]tritt	M	g[redacted]@gmail.com	[redacted]
A193666	☐	1	110325532	160651457	27.8	3256	[redacted]dy	F	k[redacted]@gmail.com	[redacted]
A291507	☐	1	110325532	160674460	27.9	3257	[redacted]e	M	k[redacted]@gmail.com	[redacted]
[redacted]712790	☐	1	110334034	162443785	30.4	5732	[redacted]nn	F	p[redacted]@sbcglobal.net	[redacted]

Revisiting an Old DNA Circle

Remembering that Ancestry once featured “Circles,” I dug through my old files and found a printout of the SELLERS DNA circle. Specifically, I located the circle for Nathan Douglas Sellers (1797–1874). This wasn’t just a list of matches—it also included Ancestry’s relationship estimate. According to their analysis, Nathan was my **2nd cousin 5x removed**.



You're related to Nathan Douglas Sellers

Nathan Douglas Sellers is your 2nd cousin 5x removed. DNA evidence connects you to his DNA Circle, which so far includes 19 of his descendants.

Who is in a DNA Circle?

- ✔ Circle members share DNA with other members of the circle.
- ✔ Circle members all have family tree evidence that they are direct descendants of Nathan Douglas Sellers.
- ✔ Your DNA matches some or all members of this DNA Circle.

Learn more about DNA Circles

Nathan Douglas Sellers
(1797-1874)

2nd cousin 5x removed

When Nathan Douglas Sellers was born on January 6, 1797, in Kentucky, his father, William, was 25 and his mother, Sarah, was 18. He married Susanna Hawk and they had 18 children together. He also had two daughters from another relationship. He died on February 14, 1874, in Wabash, Indiana, having lived a long life of 77 years, and was buried in Liberty Mills, Indiana.

That estimate provides an important clue: if Nathan is a second cousin, then our shared ancestor would be about three generations back from him. His FamilySearch tree points to potential ancestors. While it’s possible the connection lies through Nathan’s mother, it seems far more likely that the common ancestor is on the SELLERS side—which includes both a CRAWFORD line and a SMITH line.

A Major Clue Toward Identifying the Ancestor

While Ancestry's ThruLines won't extend back far enough to pinpoint the exact common ancestor, I now have multiple layers of evidence:

- DNA proof of a connection to SELLERS descendants
- A triangulated shared segment on chromosome one
- An old Ancestry circle identifying a likely cousin relationship

Together, these clues provide a major hint that the CRAWFORD line in the SELLERS family may also be the key to unlocking the mystery of my own James Crawford's parentage.

This isn't the final answer, but it's a significant step forward. The SELLERS DNA may ultimately hold the missing link to my CRAWFORD ancestry.

How I Use AI

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
October 8, 2025
Artificial Intelligence
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/10/08/how-i-use-ai/

Using AI in My Genealogy Work

Recently, the *Genealogy and Artificial Intelligence* group on Facebook asked its members how they were using AI. As I read through the responses, I found myself wishing I could select more than one option—because AI has become part of many aspects of my research and writing.

One of my very first experiments with AI was asking it to transcribe a newspaper article. That remains one of my main uses today—transcribing both typed and handwritten documents. It saves hours of tedious work and lets me focus more on the analysis.

Over time, my use has grown. I now rely on AI as an “editor” for my blog posts. After I draft a post, I’ll often ask ChatGPT to improve the flow, strengthen the wording, or even write a conclusion. I also depend on it for those short meta descriptions that are so essential for blog visibility.

Following Randy Seaver’s process of turning “dull” narrative reports into more engaging biographies, I developed a complex prompt (inspired by one shared in the AI group) to generate family biographies. That prompt includes instructions to incorporate parents, siblings, spouses, children, newspaper excerpts, historical context, and footnotes. The result: a polished narrative that’s casual enough for family members but still rich in detail.

For other projects, I keep things simpler. While creating narratives of Purple Heart recipients from World War II for my local historical society, my prompts were short and direct:

- *Write a long narrative about the life and military service of Raymond Woltkamp with subheadings.*
- *Can you write a 3–5 sentence synopsis of Raymond Woltkamp’s military career?*

To complement those narratives, I used Google NotebookLM. By uploading a PDF and clicking *Audio Overview*, I could instantly generate spoken summaries—no prompt required. These audio clips offered thoughtful perspectives on each soldier’s service and sacrifice.

My use of AI now stretches beyond genealogy. I’ve asked ChatGPT to check whether questionable social media posts were factual or fake—something I once relied on Snopes.com for. I’ve also researched drug side effects and interactions, and even asked it to find a map of the Detroit-to-Chicago road from the 1830s for a blog post. While I still prefer Perplexity.AI for deep research questions, ChatGPT has proven itself an invaluable tool in my daily work.

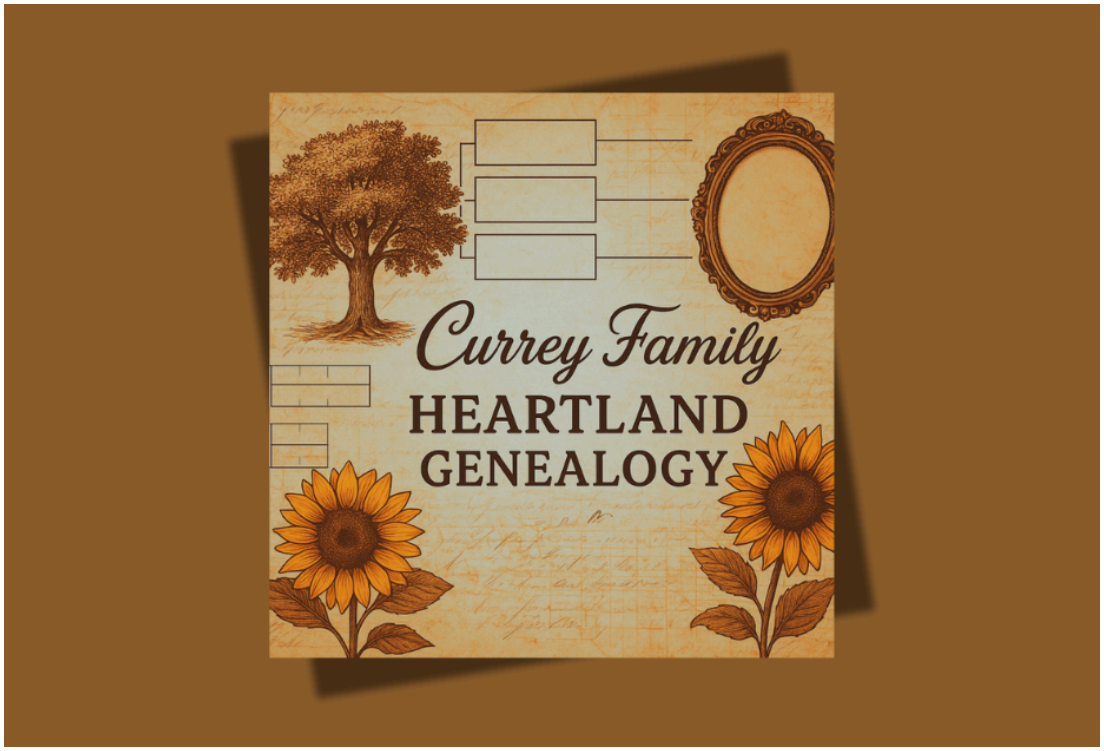
Knowing that my ChatGPT account has a record of all of my uses, I asked ChatGPT if I had left anything out of my post and got the following response.

> Yes — you've covered most of the big ways you use AI in your draft (transcription, editing, blog conclusions/meta descriptions, creating biographies, writing narratives/synopses, generating audio with NotebookLM, fact-checking, research questions, and drug/side effect checks).
>
> But from our past work together, here are a few **additional ways you've used AI that didn't make it into your post**:
>
> ### 1. Design & Visuals
>
> - You often ask me to draft **display text** for signs, 8×10 boards, or posters (e.g., German heritage, Purple Heart Walk, church events).
> - I've also helped with **Canva design guidance** — fonts, spacing, layering, and poster layouts.
> - You've asked me to generate **featured images for blog posts** (930×630px) and provide image-editing instructions (e.g., restoring old photos, removing handwriting, sharpening/fixing cracks).
>
> ### 2. Structured Data & Tables
>
> - Turning handwritten notes or documents into **structured genealogical tables** (birth/marriage/death indexes, census extracts, land grants, muster rolls).
> - Re-creating **McGuire DNA charts** or genealogy registers from scanned images or handwritten family lists.
> - Formatting **genealogical reports** into polished, publishable form.
>
> ### 3. Transcription & Correction
>
> - Beyond newspaper articles, you've used me for **handwritten letters, deeds, obituaries, and probate records**, then asked me to **correct or refine transcriptions**.
> - Sometimes you've asked me to compare your transcription against the original and provide corrections.
>
> ### 4. Genealogical Writing Assistance
>
> - Improving **introductions and conclusions** for your regular blog series (*Monday's Diggings*, *Friday Finds*, *ABC Biographies*).
> - Drafting **meta descriptions** for nearly every post.
> - Expanding short notes into **full narrative biographies**, with section headings, historical context, and tone adjustments.
>
> ### 5. Technical / Web Support
>
> - Running **site crawls** to check for broken links or errors on the NCHS website.
> - Creating **site maps** (hierarchical outlines, diagrams, downloadable PDFs/PNGs).
> - Guiding you through **file conversions** (e.g., extracting audio from MP4, generating PDFs from text, turning charts into spreadsheets).
>
> ### 6. Community & Education Support
>
> - Drafting **letters and announcements** for Nemaha County Historical Society projects (fundraisers, signage, outreach to legislators).
> - Helping refine **explanations of policies** (like researcher notice times) for the society's website and videos.
> - Creating **summaries** of long documents for easier sharing with volunteers and researchers.

AI doesn't have to be intimidating—it's just another tool in your toolbox. Be bold, give it a try, and you might be surprised at how much it can simplify your work and spark new ideas.

Gone Missing

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
October 9, 2025
Currey,SaturdayNightGenealogyFun
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/10/09/gone-missing/



Knowing that I wouldn't be spending time on my computer while enjoying a weekend at the lake with my siblings and their families, I skipped my usual *Saturday Night Genealogy Fun* post. These weekly prompts are often lighthearted, but this week's question was more serious—and one I couldn't ignore.

> **Your mission, should you choose to accept it (cue the *Mission Impossible!* theme), is to:**
>
> 1. Identify an ancestor or relative who seems to have disappeared from the records after a certain date.
> 2. Tell us what you know about them—and what you think may have happened.

I don't just have one ancestor who vanished—I have two, both from the same family line. According to the family Bible, my great-great-grandfather **Hiram M. Currey** was born in Peoria, Illinois, in 1835. That single detail set me on the hunt to discover who his father might have been.

The 1840 census for Peoria County, Illinois, lists a **Hiram Curry**, aged 30–39, living with a woman of the same age range, a boy under five, and a girl under five. Working on the assumption that this older Hiram could be my Hiram's father, I began to research him.

Over time, I've pieced together about twenty years' worth of records for **Hiram M. Currey of Peoria**—but nothing after 1844. Then he simply disappears. Another researcher suggested that Hiram "went to the gold fields," noting that a party of Peorians did head to California during the 1849 Gold Rush. However, despite searching newspapers, diaries, and local accounts, I have yet to find a single mention of a **Hiram Currey of Peoria** among those who went west in search of gold.

ABC Biography: Hiram M. Currey (ca. 1787 – after 1844)

Early Life

Hiram M. Currey was born about 1787, though his exact birthplace is unknown. The first known record of him appears in **Franklin County, Ohio**, where he witnessed a mortgage deed on **23 May 1817**. At that time, he was already using the professional title of "Esquire," suggesting he had studied law or was involved in legal work.

Early Legal Career in Indiana

By **1822**, Hiram had moved west into the newly organized state of **Indiana**. On **4 April 1822**, he was admitted to practice law in **Rush County** and was immediately appointed as that county's first prosecuting attorney. Later that same year, he gained admission to the bar

at **Indianapolis** and became the first prosecuting attorney in **Shelby County** on **10 October 1822**.

Although his legal career in Indiana advanced quickly, it was short-lived. He resigned from his prosecuting post in Rush County in **April 1823**. His name still appears in several early Indiana legal and county histories as one of the pioneer attorneys who helped establish the region's court systems.

Move to Illinois

Hiram next appears in **Peoria County, Illinois**, where his name is found on the **1825 tax list**, showing he was living in the **Ten Mile Creek** area and later in **Medina Township**. That same year, he was appointed a **constable** in Peoria.

In **1826**, during the first public sale of Peoria lands, Hiram purchased **lot 9 in Block 2** for $51. He soon became active in local affairs, running for **county commissioner** and later being nominated—and confirmed—as **justice of the peace**. His commission as justice was dated **5 January 1827**, making him one of Peoria's early civil officers.

Public Service and Civic Life

Throughout the late 1820s, Hiram remained a visible figure in Peoria's civic and political life. He ran for local offices several times, including county commissioner and justice of the peace in **1828**, and won election as justice in **1829**.

Records show that he also performed marriage ceremonies and was active as a lawyer. Around **1829**, he was recognized as an early settler of **Spring Bay Township** in nearby **Tazewell County**.

Military and Frontier Service

Hiram's sense of civic duty extended to military service. He was commissioned **major of the Peoria Battalion** on **4 March 1830** and later served as a **private and second sergeant** in the **Black Hawk War** of 1831–1832. His company, under Captains Pike and Eads, took part in the early engagements near the Rock River and Stillman's Run.

In correspondence preserved in military archives, Hiram signed himself as **"Major Peoria Add. Batt'n, Illinois Militia"**, writing to General Henry Atkinson in **November 1832** regarding the burning of land and bridges by Native Americans near Peoria. Later that year, he was appointed a commissioner to investigate the conduct of the **Pottawatomi**.

Land Ownership and Community Work

Hiram actively purchased and sold land in Peoria County throughout the 1830s, filing several preemption claims and land entries. His holdings included portions of Sections 5 and 30 in Townships 10 and 11 North, Range 9 East, of the **Fourth Principal Meridian**.

He also served his community in other ways. In **1836**, he taught school in a small cabin near the home of **Moses Neal**—a reminder that frontier professionals often wore many hats. By **1844**, Hiram was recorded as a **school trustee** in **Woodford County, Illinois**.

Family Life

Hiram M. Currey married **Rachel Harris** on **28 September 1824** in **Edgar County, Illinois**. The ceremony was performed by **Rev. John W. McReynolds**, a Methodist Episcopal minister. Rachel was the daughter of **Peter Harris** and **Rachel Simonse Van Arsdale**.

Rachel likely died before **March 1842**, since she was not named when Hiram sold land that year. The couple had at least five children:

1. **Max Currey**, birth date unknown.
2. **Julia E. Currey**, born about 1832 in Illinois; married **James E. Smith** on 19 October 1853 in Peoria.
3. **Mary Ellen Currey**, born about 1833; married **Jeremiah B. Kellogg** on 3 February 1853 in Tazewell County; died after 1860.
4. **Hiram M. Currey Jr.**, born **13 August 1835** in Peoria; married **Angelina Jane Burke** on 3 August 1856 in Weston, Missouri; died **2 March 1901** in Lansing, Kansas.
5. **Caroline Currey**, born **9 March 1836**; married **William Kelso** on 9 August 1854 in Peoria; died **18 December 1880** in Arcola, Illinois.

Later Years and Disappearance

Hiram's last known appearance in Illinois records was as a school trustee in **1844**. Family stories and later research suggest he may have joined the migration to **California's gold fields** around **1849**, though no definitive proof has surfaced in letters or newspaper accounts. After that time, he disappears from available records.

Legacy

Hiram M. Currey's life illustrates the mobility and versatility of early 19th-century pioneers. He served as lawyer, public official, soldier, teacher, and landholder during the formative years of **Illinois and Indiana** statehood. Though his ultimate fate remains uncertain, the public records he left behind paint a vivid picture of a man who played a significant role in shaping the early civic institutions of the Midwest.

The above ABC Biography was created by ChatGPT from a RootsMagic narrative report for Hiram M. Currey shown below.

Hiram M. Currey was born about 1787.

He was witness on a mortgage deed between Hiram M. Currey and Gustavus Swan on 23 May 1817 in Franklin County, Ohio. [1]

On 4 Apr 1822 he was admitted into the practice of law, the 1st attorney of Rush County and was at once made prosecutor in Rush, Indiana, United States. [2–3] *The organization of the Rush Circuit Court, took place on April 4, 1822, at the house of Stephen Sims, just south of the City of Rushville. Court met at the appointed time, and Hiram M. Curry was admitted to the Bar, and sworn in as Prosecuting Attorney.*

Hiram was admitted to practice law on 26 Sep 1822 in Indianapolis, Marion, Indiana, United States. [4–5]

On 10 Oct 1822 he was appointed the first prosecuting attorney in Shelby County, Indiana. [6–10]

He resigned as prosecuting attorney in Apr 1823 in Rush, Indiana, United States. [2]
The April Term, 1823, met on the 24th of that month, at Robert Thompson's house in Rushville, only the Associate Judges being present. … Hiram M. Curry resigned as Prosecuting Attorney and Charles H. Test was appointed to fill the vacancy.

Hiram was assessed $225 in 1825 in Ten Mile Creek, Peoria, Illinois, United States. [11–13]

He lived in Medina Township, Peoria County, Illinois about 1825. [14]

He was appointed Constable about Jul 1825 in Peoria, Peoria, Illinois, United States. [15–17]

Hiram purchased lot 9 in Block No. 2 at $51.00 during the first public sale of lands on 10 Jul 1826 in Peoria, Peoria, Illinois, United States. [18]

He ran for county commissioner in Aug 1826 in Peoria, Illinois, United States. [19]

His nomination for justice of peace for Peoria County was approved by Illinois House of Representatives on 26 Dec 1826. [20–22]

Hiram's confirmation by the Senate for his nomination by the Illinois House of Representatives for justice of peace representing Peoria County was announced on 27 Dec 1826. [23]

He was commissioned justice of peace on 5 Jan 1827 in Peoria, Peoria, Illinois, United States. [24–25]

He was a lawyer in Peoria, Peoria, Illinois, United States. [26]

Hiram was a candidate for county commissioner on 14 Aug 1828 in Peoria, Peoria, Illinois, United States. [27]

He was a candidate for justice of peace on 18 Oct 1828 in La Salle District, Peoria County, Illinois. [28]

He was an early settler in in Spring Bay Township, Tazewell County, Illinois in 1829. [29–30]

Hiram received 28 votes for justice of the peace and was elected to the office on 29 Aug 1829 in LaSalle Precinct, Peoria County, Illinois. [31–34]

On 9 Nov 1829 he was a Justice of Peace in Peoria, Peoria County, Illinois. [35]

In 1830, he was to have performed a marriage ceremony in the home of John Hammett but did not arrive until late in Mossville, Peoria, Illinois, United States. [36]

Hiram was listed with 1 male age 10-15, 2 males age 30-40, 1 female under 5, 1 female age 20-30 on the 1830 census in Peoria, Peoria, Illinois, United States [37]

He was commissioned major of Peoria battalion on 4 Mar 1830 in Illinois, United States. [38–39]

On 15 Jul 1830 he was a justice of the peace in Peoria County, Illinois. [40]

Between 16 Jun 1831 and 26 Jun 1831, Hiram served in Capt. Pike's Company of the Rock River Rangers as a private in the IL Volunteer Militia in the Sac & Fox War. Hiram M. Currey enrolled at Fort Armstrong. [41–42]

He performed the first marriage solemnized between white people in this region between Harris W. Miner and Miss Nancy Gross about 1832 in Stark, Stark, Illinois, United States. [43–44]

He was appointed along with Charles Ballance as commissioners to a road towards Knoxville that passes on north line of

in Peoria, Peoria, Illinois, United States in 1832. [45]

Hiram served in the military as 2 Sergeant in Capt. Eads' Company of Mounted Rangers in Stillman's Battalion, Illinois Mounted Volunteers on 23 Apr 1832 in Illinois. [46–48]

He was listed on the muster roll of Captain Abner Eads Company of Mounted Ranging Volunteers enrolled on an Order from Commander in Chief of the Militia of the State of Illinois to Brigadier General Isaiah Stillman for the service of the United States and served as Orderly Sergt. from May 17th to the 21st of May 1832 in Peoria, Peoria, Illinois, United States. [47,49–50]

He ended military service on 28 Jun 1832 in Illinois, United States having served as 2 Sergeant in Captain Ead's Company Mounted Rangers in Stillman's Battalion, Illinois Mounted Volunteers. [46,48]

On 6 Nov 1832 from Peoria, Peoria, Illinois, United States, Hiram sent a letter and petition to General Atkinson regarding burning of land and bridge by Winnebago Indians. The letter is signed Hiram M. Curry, major Peoria Add Battn of Ill Militia. [51]

He was identified at the bottom of a letter from Henry Atkinson, Jefferson Barracks dated 16 Nov 1832 while residing in Peoria, Peoria County, Illinois. [52–54]

He held the office of Commissioner on the conduct of the Pottawatomi in Dec 1832 in Illinois, United States. [53,55–56]

Hiram applied to enter land (SW 1/4 S5 T10N R9E of 4th Principle Meridian) by preemption agreeably to Act of Congress of 19 June 1834 in 1834 in Peoria, Peoria, Illinois, United States. [45]

He purchased the SW1/4 Section 9 Township 9N Range 8E of the 4th Principal Meridian from Lewis Hallock and Sophia his wife of Peoria Co., IL on 17 Oct 1834 in Peoria, Peoria County, Illinois. [57–58]

He sold the SW1/4 Section 9 Township 9N Range 8E in the Military Bounty Tract of Illinois to Blewford Stringer for $200.00 on 18 Oct 1834. [59–60]

Hiram was mentioned in tax list in 1835 in Peoria, Peoria, Illinois, United States. [61]

He was involved in a land dispute with Isaac Underhill regarding whether Hiram M. Curry was actually residing on the land he had claimed by preemption being the SW fractional quarter Section 5 Township 10 North Range 9 East of the 4th principal meridian between 1836 and 1840 in Peoria, Peoria, Illinois, United States. [62]

He taught school in a cabin near where the residence of Moses Neal now stands in 1836 in Peoria, Peoria, Illinois, United States. [31,63]

Hiram filed land entry papers on 19 Mar 1836 in Peoria, Peoria, Illinois, United States claiming he occupied and raised a crop on the SW fraction quarter of Section 5 Township 19 N Range 9 East of 4th principal Meridian in year 1833. [45]

He filed land entry papers paying $44.20 for the SW fractional quarter of Section 5 Township 10 N Range 9 E of the 4th principal meridian containing 35 acres on 30 May 1836 in Peoria, Peoria County, Illinois. [45,64]

He sold 78 and 99/100 acres in the E 1/2 NW 1/4 S30T11NR9E of 4th principal meridian for $800.00 to Thomas M. Currey on 9 Jul 1836 in Peoria, Peoria, Illinois, United States. [65–66]

Hiram purchased the E 1/2 of the NW 1/4 Section 30 Township 11N Range 9E of the 4th Principal Meridian being 78 and 99/100 acres for $150 from Linus Scoville and his wife Elizabeth Scoville on 9 Jul 1836 in Peoria, Peoria County, Illinois. [67–68]

His certificate #8250 for SW1/4 S5T10NR9E was cancelled on 3 Oct 1838 in Peoria, Peoria, Illinois, United States. [45]

He was listed on the 1840 census with 1 male under 5, 1 male 30-40, 1 female under 5, 1 female 30-40 at La Salle Precinct in Peoria, Peoria, Illinois, United States. [69]

He was a candidate for representative in 1840 in Peoria, Peoria, Illinois, United States. [70]

Hiram purchased land being the E1/2 of the NW1/4 Section 30 Township 11N Range 9E of 4th principle meridian on 23 Nov 1840 in Peoria, Peoria, Illinois, United States. [71–72]

He sold land by quit claim to Isaac Underhill the S 1/2 of Section 5 Township 10N Range 9E of 4th principal meridian acquired by virtue of preemption for the sum of $150.00 on 28 Mar 1842 in Illinois, United States. [73–74]

He was commissioned lieutenant colonel of 1st regiment on 31 Dec 1842 in Illinois, United States. [75]

Hiram was member of school trustees on 27 Nov 1844 in Woodford, Woodford, Illinois, United States. [76]

He went to the gold fields about 1849 . [77–78] to the gold fields

Hiram M. Currey married Rachel Harris on 28 Sep 1824 in Edgar, Edgar, Illinois, United States. The couple was married by John W. McReynolds, a licensed minister of the gospel of the Methodist Episcopal Church. [79–84]

Rachel Harris, daughter of Peter Harris and Rachel Simonse VanArsdale, likely died before 28 March 1842 when a deed for sale of land by Hiram M. Curry does not mention a wife.. [73]

Hiram M. Currey and Rachel Harris had the following children:

2 i **Max Currey** [85] was born (date unknown).

+3 ii **Julia E. Currey**, born abt 1832, Illinois, United States; married James E. Smith, 19 Oct 1853, Peoria, Peoria, Illinois, United States.

+4 iii **Mary Ellen Currey**, born abt 1833; married Jeremiah B. Kellogg, 3 Feb 1853, Tazewell, Tazewell, Illinois, United States; died aft 1860.

+5 iv **Hiram M. Currey**, born 13 Aug 1835, Peoria, Peoria, Illinois, United States; married Angelina Jane Burke, 3 Aug 1856, Weston, Platte, Missouri, United States; died 2 Mar 1901, Lansing, Leavenworth, Kansas, United States.

+6 v **Caroline Currey**, born 9 Mar 1836; married William Kelso, 9 Aug 1854, Peoria, Peoria, Illinois, United States; died 18 Dec 1880, Arcola, Douglas, Illinois, United States.

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Friday Find

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
October 10, 2025
Michigan,Wells
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/10/10/friday-find-95/

Wells Family

Today's Friday Find features another fascinating set of family papers preserved in the collection of Preston B. Wells. These handwritten notes trace the Wells lineage across several generations, offering valuable details about births, marriages, and deaths that bring the family's history to life.

Ref 5
Wells Family

Original Papers belong to Preston Wells
10884 Trappers Lane
Stanwood MI 49346

Benjamin F. Wells – Born March 27, 1819 – Died Dec. 25, 1892
Thurston H. Wells – Feb. 26, 1821
William W. Wells – Jan. 9, 1823
Hannah A. Wells – March 6, 1825
Mary Jane Wells – Jan. 14, 1827
Lucinda M. Wells – April 21, 1829
Nancy Philida Wells – May 8, 1831

SECOND PAGE

Ref 6

this is your [father's] family

Original Papers belonging to Preston Wells
10884 Trappers Lane
Stanwood, MI 49346

Green Wells – Born 24th Sept 1764

Abagail Wells her name when [gael]
was **Abagail White–** Born [24] Sept 1770

David Wells – Born 26th March 178[0]
Betsy – [2]4 [Nov] 1792
Hannah – 30th May 1794
Ozias – 13th May 1796
Abby – 18 Sept 1798
George – 15 August 1801
Green – 18 April 1803
[Phildia]– 6th July 1806
Melzar – 23 Jan 1808
Laura – 26 Mar 1811

THIRD PAGE

Ref 7A

Hannah Kennedy – Died Barre, Orleans Co NY 1845
Asherah – Died Adrian, Mich., August 1845
John – Eckford, Dec. 1843
Charles – "Oneida, March [no year]
William – "Kalamazoo, [?] 2 1878
Mary – "[?]. 23, 1885

Ref 7B

"The death of the four first mentioned is for the mmemory of Martha and Uncle Barnes at the time of Uncle William's death.

I have no record of uncle David or aunt Betsey."

Original Papers belong to Preston Wells
10884 Trappers Lane
Stanwood, MI 49346

PAGE 4

Ref 8A

William O. Wells
Born [Feby 4th] 1845
Married July 8, 1866

Ida M. Wells Gregory
Born Jan 7, 1851 – Married April 29, 1866

Sadie Wells Sulgrove
Born Sept 14, 1866 – Married Oct 6, 1889 –

Died May 1st, 19[26]

Mary Wells – Born June 11, 1863

married

Everard J. Gregory, son of Ida Wells
Born Dec 25, 1866

Ref 8B

B. F. Wells
Died Dec 25, 1882

Mrs. B. F. Wells
Died June 12, 1903

Original Papers belong to Preston Wells
10884 Trappers Lane
Stanwood, MI 49346

After transcribing these pages, ChatGPT asked if I'd like a genealogical style report. The first such report it created placed the names on the first page as children of David Wells. After informing ChatGPT that these were the children of Ozias Wells, it created the following report:

Wells Family Genealogical RegisterFirst Generation

1. Green Wells was born 24 Sept 1764. He married **Abagail White**, who was born [24] Sept 1770.

Children of Green and Abagail (White) Wells:
2. i. **David Wells**, b. 26 Mar 178[0].
   ii. **Betsy Wells**, b. [2]4 [Nov] 1792.
   iii. **Hannah Wells**, b. 30 May 1794.
   iv. **Ozias Wells**, b. 13 May 1796.
   v. **Abby Wells**, b. 18 Sept 1798.
   vi. **George Wells**, b. 15 Aug 1801.
   vii. **Green Wells**, b. 18 Apr 1803.
   viii. **[Phildia] Wells**, b. 6 Jul 1806.
   ix. **Melzar Wells**, b. 23 Jan 1808.
   x. **Laura Wells**, b. 26 Mar 1811.

Second Generation

2. Ozias Wells (Green¹) was born 13 May 1796.

Children of Ozias Wells:
3. i. **Benjamin F. Wells**, b. 27 Mar 1819; d. 25 Dec 1892.
   ii. **Thurston H. Wells**, b. 26 Feb 1821.
   iii. **William W. Wells**, b. 9 Jan 1823.
   iv. **Hannah A. Wells**, b. 6 Mar 1825.
   v. **Mary Jane Wells**, b. 14 Jan 1827.
   vi. **Lucinda M. Wells**, b. 21 Apr 1829.
   vii. **Nancy Philida Wells**, b. 8 May 1831.

Third Generation

3. Benjamin F. Wells (Ozias², Green¹) was born 27 Mar 1819 and died 25 Dec 1892. He married **[Mrs.] B. F. Wells**, who died 12 Jun 1903.

Children of Benjamin F. Wells:
   i. **William O. Wells**, b. [Feby 4th] 1845; m. 8 Jul 1866, **Ida M. Gregory**, b. 7 Jan 1851.
   ii. **Hannah Kennedy Wells**, d. Barre, Orleans Co., NY, 1845.
   iii. **Asherah Wells**, d. Adrian, Mich., Aug 1845.
   iv. **John Wells**, d. Eckford, Dec 1843.
   v. **Charles Wells**, d. Oneida, Mar [no year].
   vi. **William Wells**, d. Kalamazoo, [?] 2, 1878.
   vii. **Mary Wells**, d. [?] 23, 1885.

Notes: A memorandum (Ref 7B) states:

> "The death of the four first mentioned is for the memory of Martha and Uncle Barnes at the time of Uncle William's death. I have no record of Uncle David or Aunt Betsey."

Fourth Generation

William O. Wells (Benjamin³, Ozias², Green¹), b. [Feby 4th] 1845, m. 8 Jul 1866 **Ida M. Gregory**, b. 7 Jan 1851; m. 29 Apr 1866.

Children of William O. and Ida M. (Gregory) Wells:
   i. **Sadie Wells**, b. 14 Sept 1866; m. 6 Oct 1889 surname **Sulgrove**; d. 1 May 19[26].
   ii. **Mary Wells**, b. 11 Jun 1863.

Other related record:
- **Everard J. Gregory**, son of Ida Wells, b. 25 Dec 1866.

Summary of Key Notes

The notes preserved in Ref 7B provide contextual clues about family events tied to “Martha and Uncle Barnes.”

The earliest identified ancestors in these records are **Green Wells (1764–)** and **Abagail White (1770–)**.

Their son **Ozias Wells (1796–)** is the father of **Benjamin F. Wells (1819–1892)**, who anchors much of the later Wells family record.

Death records for multiple children (Hannah Kennedy, Asherah, John, Charles, William, Mary) highlight high early mortality in the mid-1800s.

These records from the Preston B. Wells collection not only preserve the names and dates of the Wells family, but also reflect the care with which family history was remembered and passed down. By compiling these notes into a genealogical register, we can better understand how the Wells line connects across generations and ensure that this branch of the family remains part of the larger story I am uncovering through my Friday Find posts.

Updated AncestryDNA Origins

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
October 11, 2025
DNA,Ethnicity
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/10/11/updated-ancestrydna-origins/

Have you taken an AncestryDNA test? If so, you may have noticed a recent update to your **Ethnicity Origins**. I received my updated results last week, and the biggest change I noticed is that the regions have become more precise.

For example, in 2024 my results showed that **63% of my ancestry** came from *England and Northwest Europe*. With the 2025 update, that same percentage is now divided into two regions: *England & Northwest Europe* and *West Midlands*. It's a subtle shift, but one that offers a clearer picture of where my ancestors may have lived generations ago.

Last year, I analyzed the origins of both my paternal and maternal lines, and those findings align well with these updated results. If I were ready to begin research in Europe, this new data would give me valuable clues about where to start looking for records and family connections.

Region	ME	DC	TC	Mom
SE England & NW Europe	49	53	34	52
West Midlands	16	20	10	7
Devon & Somerset		4	15	
East Midlands			4	4
NE England		2		4
NW Germany	6			7
Netherlands	5		9	2
Southern Germanic Europe	2	2	7	4
Central Scotland & Northern Ireland	10	12	15	11
Northern Wales & NW England				6
Southern Wales	7	2		
Denmark	5	3	3	
Iceland		2	3	4

For additional information about this newly released feature see Ancestry's What's New post or watch Genealogy TV's interview of Crista Cowan.

https://youtube.com/watch?v=UDlSkkCTs3w

Saturday Night Genealogy Fun

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
October 12, 2025
SaturdayNightGenealogyFun
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/10/12/saturday-night-genealogy-fun-173/

This week's **Saturdan Night Genealogy Fun** challenge by Randy Seaver of Genea-Musings asked us to:

Tell us about one (or more) of your ancestors that have no given name and no birth surname who has perhaps married an ancestor with a given name and surname from whom you are descended.

Well, I don't have **millions** of these unknown individuals lurking in my tree — but I do have **eleven**!

None of these eleven are direct ancestors. Instead, they represent a few different types of "unknowns" that have popped up over the years as I research:

- **Descendancy research:** cases where a spouse's name is missing.
- **DNA connections:** when the parent of a DNA match is unknown.
- **Obituary research:** when I find an obituary for a surname and place of interest but can't yet link the individual to my known family.

So while I only have eleven individuals who are truly "unknown" in both name and lineage, I have **many more with missing surnames** — usually spouses of descendants of one of my known ancestors.

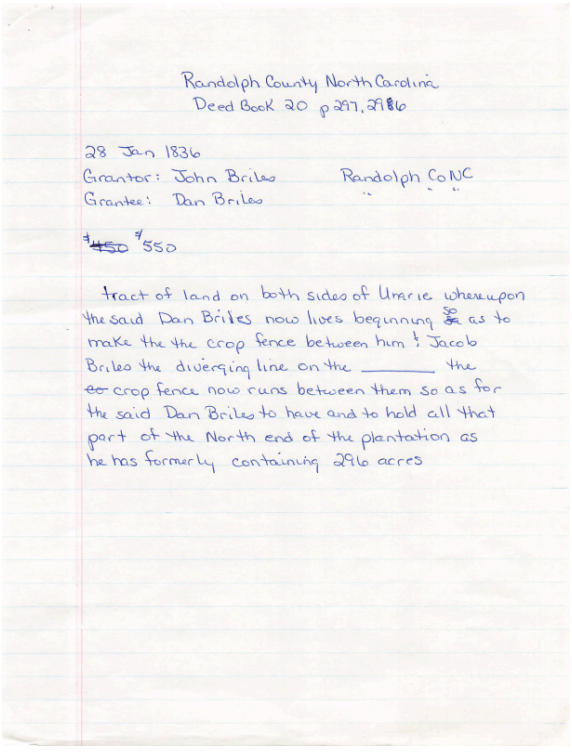
Even though these "unknowns" appear in my genealogy file, I don't devote much time specifically to identifying them. My focus remains on **researching my ancestors, their descendants, and their FAN clubs** (friends, associates, and neighbors). As I document those lives in detail, the puzzle pieces often fall into place — and now and then, one of those "unknowns" becomes known after all.

Mondays Diggings

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
October 13, 2025
Briles,North Carolina
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/10/13/mondays-diggings-14/

Today's record comes from my BRILES folder and includes both my original research notes and an image of a deed. I first located this record years ago while scrolling microfilm at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. At the time, those handwritten notes and photocopies were my only way to capture the information. Thanks to FamilySearch's Full Text Search feature, I can now revisit this same deed from home—and even generate a full transcription with just a few keystrokes.

Below, you'll find my original notes alongside the transcription created using FamilySearch's powerful search capabilities.



Randolph County North Carolina
Deed Book 20 p297, 2986

28 Jan 1836
Grantor: John Briles Randolph Co NC
Grantee: Dan Briles

~~$450~~ $550

tract of land on both sides of Umarie whereupon the said Dan Briles now lives beginning ~~so~~ as to make the the crop fence between him & Jacob Briles the diverging line on the _____ the ~~so~~ crop fence now runs between them so as for the said Dan Briles to have and to hold all that part of the North end of the plantation as he has formerly containing 296 acres

Randolph County North Carolina

Deeds 1831-1835, 1829-1831, 1835-1837

Image 719 of 843
Volume 20 startes on inage 563

"Randolph, North Carolina, United States records," images, FamilySearch (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-L967-5KY6?view=explore : Sep 27, 2025), image 719 of 843; . Image Group Number: 007560689

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This Indenture Made this twenty Eighth day of January
in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and
thirty six John Briles of the County of Randolph & State of
North Carolina of the one part & Dan Briles of the County
and State aforesaid of the other part Witnesseth that for and
in consideration of the sum of five hundred & fifty Dollars
to him in hand paid by the said Dan Briles the receipt
whereof he doth hereby acknowledge hath this day bargained
Sold and Delivered unto him the said Dan BRILES a Certain
tract or parcel of land on both sides of Uhare the said Dan Briles
now lives Beginning so as to make this the cross [fen]ces between
him & Jacob Briles the dividing line on the direction
the Cross fence now runs between them so as for the said
Dan briles to have and to hold all that part of the North

page 297

end of the plantation as he now has formerly had containing
two hundred and ninety six acres be the same more or less
together with all woods waters ways mines minerals &
appertanances thereunto belonging or in any wise appertaining
to have and to hold free and Clear from all Incumbrances
or in any wise the said John Bries for himself his heirs
and assigns will Warrant & Defend unto the said Dan Briles
& his heirs forever all the above named premises unto him
the said Dan Briles his heirs & assigns forever – In Witness
whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my
seal the day and year first above written

John Briles (Seal)

Sealed Signed and Delivered in presence of us
Joseph Hoover senr
Joseph Hoover Jnr
State of North Carolina Court of please & quarter Sessions
Randolph County May Term 1836 .
The Execution of this deed was duly acknowledged in
open Court & ordered to be registered
Hugh McCam CCC

Looking back, I'm grateful for the time spent in Salt Lake City turning microfilm readers and scribbling notes. Those efforts provided the foundation for my research, while today's digital tools make it possible to revisit and expand on that work with ease. Having both sets of records—the handwritten notes from years ago and the searchable transcriptions available now—not only preserves the history but also highlights how far genealogy research has come.

Gemini AI

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
October 14, 2025
Artificial Intelligence
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/10/14/gemini-ai/

Do you use a wide variety of AI tools or stick to one or two. I have to admit that I have stuck to a few: ChatGPT, Google NotebookLM and at times Suno. Thus, I had not used Gemini.

That all changed when I needed a photo and my source was a newspaper picture. Having read quite a few posts on the Facebook Genealogy and Artificial Intelligence group about improving pictures, including taking a picture froma newspaper and making it useable. When I dug further, I found that they used simple prompts. So, I tried it.

Can you restore this picture from a 1946 newspaper?

I also had a cellphone picture of a framed photo that had a ‘glare’ problem.

The attached photo has a a glass over it that is causing a reflection of both light and some sort of rectangular object. Can you restore the picture, removing those reflections?

One of the pictures of my grandmother is damaged. I submitted that photo and asked Gemini to repair it.

All I could say was WOW!

Comparing AI Prompts

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
October 15, 2025
Artificial Intelligence
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/10/15/comparing-ai-prompts/

Have you ever experimented with AI prompts to transform genealogy reports into readable narratives? I've been exploring both simple prompts and more detailed ones for this task. Recently, I tested a prompt generated by RootsMagic and compared the resulting narrative to one created with my more complex ABC Biography prompt.

Simpler Prompt

You are a Story teller. Your task is to Draft a narrative biography using the attached narrative report, intended for a General public audience. # Instructions – Incorporate relevant historical context by briefly describing notable events and trends during the individual's lifespan, specifically as they pertain to the region and era.

Alma Jean Currey (1912–1989)

On **April 5, 1912**, in the quiet town of **Plainville, Kansas**, Alma Jean Currey entered the worldNarrative Report for Alma Jean …. Just days later, the Titanic would sink across the Atlantic, a reminder that she was born into a century of dramatic change.

Tragedy struck early: Alma's mother died when she was only a year and a half old. With her father struggling to keep the family together, she was sent to live with the DeShazer family in Ottawa, Kansas. The 1920 census records her there as a seven-year-old boarderNarrative Report for Alma Jean …. Like many children of that era, Alma's early life reflected the challenges faced by families on the Great Plains, where illness, economic uncertainty, and the aftershocks of World War I shaped daily life.

By 1925, Alma was reunited with her father, Hiram Currey, in Gray County, KansasNarrative Report for Alma Jean …. Two of her sisters lived nearby in Ford County. Kansas in the 1920s was still largely rural, but the family would soon experience the changes sweeping America: mechanized farming, cars replacing horses, and the growing cultural pull of cities.

Building a Family

At just 17 years old, Alma married **Joseph Johnson "Bud" Taylor** on **December 14, 1929**, in Olathe, KansasNarrative Report for Alma Jean …. Their marriage came at the dawn of the **Great Depression**, a time when jobs were scarce and

families had to be resourceful. Joseph worked as a casket trimmer in Kansas City, and Alma kept the household together while raising their children.

They had four children:

- **Jerry Joe Taylor** (1932–2001)
- **Ronald Taylor** (born 1935)
- **William Dean Taylor** (1938–2011)
- **Edith Sue Taylor** (1947–2016)Narrative Report for Alma Jean …

The Taylors' moves mirrored the migrations of countless Midwestern families seeking opportunity during the 20th century. From Kansas to Illinois, and later to California, Alma and Joseph's family followed the currents of industry and growth. By the 1940s, they were living in **Los Angeles**, where the war effort had transformed the city into a booming hub of defense manufacturing and new suburban lifeNarrative Report for Alma Jean ….

Life in Arizona

In 1967, Alma's life shifted again when Joseph passed away at the age of 56. Two years later, Alma moved to **Arizona**, settling in the red rock country of **Sedona**Narrative Report for Alma Jean …. Sedona in the late 1960s was beginning its transformation from a quiet desert town into a destination known for its art, tourism, and spiritual retreats.

In **1974**, Alma remarried, this time to **Nate Grenier**, and they built a life together in SedonaNarrative Report for Alma Jean …. Family ties remained important—she attended a Currey family reunion in Sedona in 1964, and she stayed in touch with her surviving siblings, including her sister Winnie of Dodge City.

Final Years and Legacy

Alma passed away on **September 7, 1989**, at the age of 77, at Good Samaritan Hospital in PhoenixNarrative Report for Alma Jean …. She was remembered as a devoted wife, mother, and sister, her life marked by resilience through loss, migration, and change. She was laid to rest in the **Sedona Community Cemetery**, where the red rocks keep silent watch over generations who made the desert their home.

Her lifetime spanned nearly eight decades of profound American transformation: from horse-drawn wagons to space shuttles, from the Dust Bowl to the postwar boom, from Kansas farm towns to the California suburbs and Arizona deserts. Alma Jean Currey's story is one of endurance, adaptability, and quiet strength—qualities that echo the experiences of so many families across the American heartland.

More Complex Prompt

You are an expert genealogist. Attached is a PDF file containing information about one of my relatives. Italicized text is from newspaper articles. Please create a draft biography from the attached file, including parents, siblings, spouses and children (with birth and death dates and places), summarize life events, and add historical facts as appropriate, but do not add or embellish any extra genealogical details. Please use any newspaper articles and/or excerpts to enhance the biography. Use section headings. Expand the information in each section to add more details. At the end, add a section providing historical context for this person's life. The tone should be casual and suitable for family members.

Biography of Alma Jean Currey (1912–1989)

Early Life

Alma Jean Currey was born on **April 5, 1912**, in **Plainville, Rooks County, Kansas**, to **Hiram M. Currey** and his wife. A short notice in the *Plainville Times* shared the happy news: *"A little daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Currey Thursday of last week."*

Tragically, Alma's mother passed away when Alma was just a year and a half old. With her father struggling to raise his young children, Alma went to live with the DeShazer family in Ottawa, Kansas. The 1920 U.S. census lists seven-year-old Alma as a boarder in their household.

By 1925, Alma was reunited with her father in **Gray County, Kansas**, while two of her older sisters, Myrtle and Winnie, lived nearby in Ford County.

Marriage and Family Life

At just 17 years old, Alma married **Joseph Johnson "Bud" Taylor** on **December 14, 1929**, in Olathe, Johnson County, Kansas. Their marriage came at a challenging time—the Great Depression had just begun.

The couple lived in Kansas City, Kansas, where Joseph worked as a **casket trimmer**. Census records show them in Perry, Jefferson County, Kansas, in 1940, where they were raising their family.

Together, Alma and Joseph had four children:

- **Jerry Joe Taylor** (1932–2001), who married Beverly Viann Borthick.
- **Ronald Taylor** (born 1935), who later married Deena.
- **William Dean Taylor** (1938–2011), who married Ruth in 2000.
- **Edith Sue Taylor** (1947–2016), who married Bobby Rynearson.

Over the years, the family moved from Kansas to Illinois, and later to California. By the mid-1940s, they were living in Los Angeles and later in the nearby community of Bell.

Later Years

Joseph Taylor passed away in **1967** at the age of 56, and was buried in Sedona, Arizona. Alma continued to build a life of her own. She attended a **Currey family reunion in Sedona in 1964**, keeping strong family ties.

In **1974**, Alma married again—this time to **Nate Henry Grenier** in Sedona. Nate, born in 1906, lived until 1996, and he too was buried in Sedona.

Alma lived in Sedona from the late 1960s onward, enjoying the community and its scenic surroundings.

Death and Legacy

On **September 7, 1989**, Alma passed away at the age of 77 at **Good Samaritan Hospital in Phoenix, Arizona**. Her obituary in the *Arizona Daily Sun* read:

“Alma J. Grenier, a Sedona resident, died Sept. 7 in Good Samaritan Hospital in Phoenix. She was 77. Services were today at the First Baptist Church, Sedona, with burial in the Sedona Community Cemetery. Mrs. Grenier was born April 5, 1912, in Plainville, Kans. She moved to Arizona in 1969 from California. Survivors are her husband, N. Henry Grenier, Sedona; a son, Ronald Taylor, living in California; and a sister, Winnie Crawford of Dodge City, Kan.”

Alma was laid to rest at **Sedona Community Cemetery** on September 11, 1989.

Historical Context

Alma’s life spanned much of the 20th century. She was born just before World War I, grew up during the 1920s, and entered adulthood as the Great Depression reshaped American life. She raised her family during World War II, when cities like Los Angeles swelled with war industries and opportunity.

In later years, Alma was part of the great westward migration, leaving the Midwest behind for California and then Arizona. Sedona, where she spent her final decades, was transforming during the 1960s and 70s into a vibrant community known for its red rock landscapes, tourism, and retirement living.

Through all these changes, Alma remained closely tied to her family and her roots. Her journey from the Kansas plains to the Arizona desert mirrors the broader story of many American families in the 20th century—marked by resilience, adaptation, and strong family bonds.

Trying out both prompts showed me that there isn’t just one way to use AI for genealogy writing. Some prompts give you a smooth, story-like flow, while others pack in more of the facts and details. The fun comes in experimenting—mixing and matching until you find the style that works best for what you’re trying to share, whether it’s a family story to keep relatives interested or a record packed with information for future research.

In the end, the best prompt is the one that helps you tell your family’s story in the way you want it remembered.

Using AI to Create a Research Plan

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
October 16, 2025
Artificial Intelligence,Currey
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/10/16/using-ai-to-create-a-research-plan-2/

Recently, Randy Seaver's *Saturday Night Genealogy Fun* prompt asked us to "identify an ancestor who seems to have gone missing." I wrote about **Hiram M. Currey**, a lawyer active in Peoria, Illinois, before 1850. A long-circulated note says he "went to the gold fields," but there's no documentation for that claim. Rather than chase an unproven story, I asked ChatGPT to help me outline a **research plan** focused on what we can prove after **1844**, the last year I can place Hiram in the records.

The prompt I gave ChatGPT

> The information that Hiram Currey went to the gold fields is from another researcher's notes and is undocumented. Hiram Currey is believed to have had four children. The son, Hiram, appears in the 1850 census living with Jane Currey, widow of Thomas M. Currey (brother of the missing father). The daughters haven't been located in 1850. Julia married James Smith in 1853 (Peoria Co.); Mary Ellen married Jeremiah Kellog in 1853 (Tazewell Co.); Caroline married William Kelso in 1854 (Peoria Co.). Suggest a strategy to learn more about Hiram after 1844.

What ChatGPT returned (and why I like it)

1) Re-evaluate late-1830s/1840s local records

- Pin down Hiram's **last verified appearance** by re-reading Peoria/Woodford/Tazewell deeds, taxes, and court minutes.
- Check **grantor/grantee indexes (1842–1850)** for spelling variants (Currey/Curry/Currie/Curray).
- Capture **associates** (neighbors, witnesses, buyers) from the 1842 and 1844 deeds who might show up with him elsewhere.

2) Probate, guardianship, and court actions (1844–1860)

- Look for **administration or guardianship** entries (especially for minors Hiram Jr. and Caroline).
- Scan **circuit court dockets** for suits that mention his absence or change of residence.

3) "Gold fields" as a testable hypothesis

- Search **California Great Registers** (early voter lists) and **California Pioneer files** for Currey/Curry with Illinois origins.

- Check **Overland trail rosters** and **arrival lists** (1850–1853) and the **1850 census** of CA/OR/MO/IA for a c.1787–1790 Hiram Curry.
- Read **Peoria newspapers (1848–1853)** for California companies and rosters.

4) Newspapers & local histories

- Target **1840–1870** with terms like “Hiram Curry,” “Major Curry,” “attorney Peoria.”
- Revisit **county histories (1870–1900)** for retrospective mentions.

5) Collateral research on associates

- Follow **Jane (widow of Thomas M. Currey)** and Currey households in 1850–1860 for overlaps with Hiram’s known associates.
- Track names that appear with Hiram (e.g., **Charles Ballance, Blewford Stringer, Linus Scoville**) to see if any resurface in **California/Kansas/Oregon**.
- Check in-law families (**Kellogg, Smith, Kelso**)—obits and family sketches sometimes mention a missing father.

6) Military & land-based benefits

- Because Hiram served in the **Black Hawk War**, look for **bounty-land or pension** files (heirs often filed later and left affidavits about death/disappearance).

7) Church & cemetery leads

- Review **Methodist Episcopal** registers (he married by a Methodist minister), burial/plot books, and township sexton records.
- Scan **Find a Grave/BillionGraves** for family plots that might include Hiram without a stone.

8) DNA triangulation

- Cluster matches who descend from **Julia, Mary Ellen, and Caroline** to see if a segment group points toward **Missouri/Kansas/California**.

9) Geographic widening along migration corridors

- Given that **Hiram Jr.** ends up in **Kansas**, search **Platte/Clay/Buchanan (MO)** and adjacent Kansas counties in 1850–1860 for an older Hiram Curry.

What I’ll do next

1. **Abstract** Hiram’s 1842 and 1844 deeds and build an **associate list** (witnesses/buyers/neighbors).
2. **Scan probate & guardianship** in Peoria/Woodford/Tazewell, 1844–1860.
3. Run a **variant-spelling search** in 1850 census across CA/OR/MO/IA.
4. Check **California Great Registers/Pioneer files** and **Peoria newspapers** (1848–1853).
5. Start a simple **DNA cluster** for descendants of Julia, Mary Ellen, and Caroline.

Takeaway

ChatGPT didn’t give me an answer—it gave me a **roadmap**. By layering courthouse work, targeted California checks, collateral lines, and DNA, I can test whether Hiram truly left Illinois or died there unrecorded. Most importantly, the plan keeps me anchored to **documented people, places, and dates**, not rumors.

Friday Find

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
October 17, 2025
Maps,Michigan,Wells
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/10/17/friday-find-96/

Wells Family

Today's find is a photocopy of a newspaper article preserved in the collection of Preston Wells, grandson of William W. Wells. The article originally appeared in the *Homer Index* of Homer, Michigan, and offers a fascinating glimpse into William's early experiences in the Wolverine State.

> **FOR 66 LONG YEARS**
> **HAS W. W. WELLS LIVED IN HOMER AND VICINITY**
> **TELLS OF HIS EXPERIENCES**
> *As a Boy in the Early Days of the Wolverine State*
>
> "You may say to your readers, if you have a mind to, that I landed in this town 66 years ago to-day," said Uncle W. W. Wells to the writer last Saturday, Sept. 19. Scenting an interesting story the old gentleman was encouraged to unburden himself, which he did in something like the following fashion. Asked how he liked the new country he said: "I was charmed with it. There was lots of wild game here then, wolves, deer, turkeys and some bears. My mother was a widow with six children, five of whom accompanied her on the long and hazardous trip—an older brother having come west the spring before.
>
> "We started from Chittenango, N.Y., sixteen miles east of Syracuse, making the trip to Buffalo by packet on the Erie canal, thence by steamer across the lake to Toledo, from there via the old Erie and Kalamazoo R. R. now a part of the Lake Shore system, to Adrian, where my brother met us with a yoke of oxen which furnished the motive power for the remainder of the journey.
>
> "We brought a wagon with us and my brother drove the oxen through from Homer. We loaded our goods in the wagon, and began the journey. My mother bought a cow and calf at Adrian, and it was my business to drive that cow and calf, keeping far enough in advance of the wagon to look up watering places, and shelter for the night. I remember one place where I stopped for water, and found the whole family down with the fever and ague, the scourge so prevalent in Michigan. They were glad enough to see a friendly face, although a strange one, and told me where to find a pail and the spring.
>
> "We followed the old 'Territorial Road' that ran from Detroit to Chicago to a point known as Branch's Corners a few miles east of Jonesville. The season had been hot and very dry, and the roads were good for wagons. We passed close to the shores of Devil's Lake, and watered the oxen and cow there. I remember the name of a tavern there. The sign bore the

words ‘A Little Inn.’ It was kept by Andrew Little, hence the significance of the name. A Little Inn. In those days every settler’s house kept travelers, and the latching string was always out.

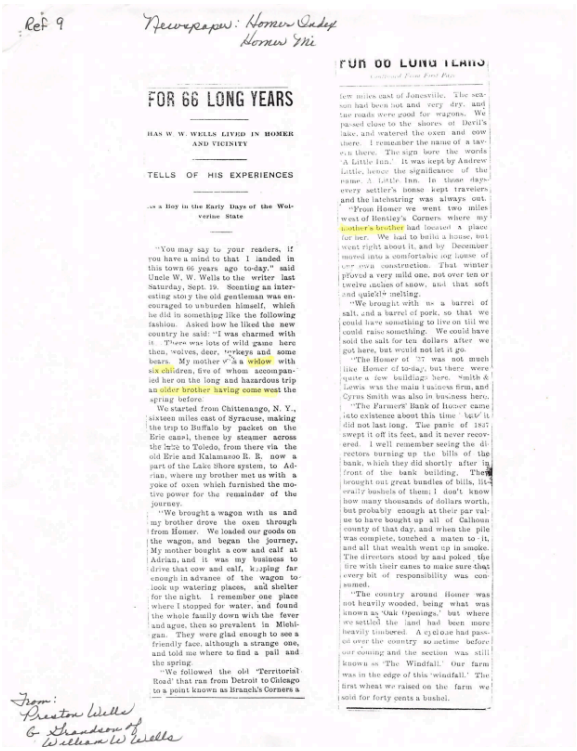
“From Homer we went two miles west of Henley’s Corners where my mother’s brother had located a place for her. We had to build a house, but went right about it, and my brother moved into a comfortable log house of our own construction. That winter proved a very mild one, not over ten or twelve inches of snow, and that soft and quickly melting.

“We brought with us a barrel of salt, and a barrel of pork, so that we could have something to live on till we could raise something. We could have sold the salt for ten dollars after we got here, but would not let it go.

“The summer of ’38 was not much like Homer for clear days, but there were quite a few thunderstorms. Hench & Lewis was the first store in Homer. Cyrus Smith was also in business here.

The Farmers’ Bank of Homer came into existence about this time but it did not last long. The panic of 1837 swept it off its feet, and it never recovered. I well remember seeing the directors burning up the bills of the bank, which they did shortly after, in front of the bank building. They brought out great bundles of bills. It was clearly business then; I don’t know how many thousands of dollars worth, but probably enough at their par value to have bought up all of Calhoun county of that day, and when the pile was complete, touched a match to it, and all that wealth went up in smoke. The directors stood by and poked the fire with their canes to make sure that every bit of responsibility was consumed.

“The country around Homer was not heavily wooded, being what was known as ‘Oak Openings,’ but where we settled the timber was much more heavily timbered. A cyclone had passed over the country some time before our coming and the section was still known as ‘The Windfall.’ Our farm was in the edge of this ‘windfall.’ The first wheat we raised the second year we sold for forty cents a bushel.”



Ref 9 Newspaper: Homer Index Homer MI

FOR 66 LONG YEARS

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TELLS OF HIS EXPERIENCES

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"We brought with us a barrel of salt, and a barrel of pork, so that we could have something to live on till we could raise something. We could have sold the salt for ten dollars after we got here, but would not let it go.

"The Homer of '38 was not much like Homer of today, but there were quite a few buildings here. Smith & Lewis was the main business firm, and Cyrus Smith was also in business here.

"The Farmers' Bank of Homer came into existence about this time but it did not last long. The panic of 1837 swept it off its feet, and it never recovered. I well remember seeing the directors burning up the bills of the bank, which they did shortly after in front of the bank building. They brought out great bundles of bills, literally bushels of them; I don't know how many thousands of dollars worth, but probably enough at their par value to have bought up all of Calhoun county of that day, and when the pile was complete, touched a match to it, and all that wealth went up in smoke. The directors stood by and poked the fire with their canes to make sure that every bit of responsibility was consumed.

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From: Preston Wells & Grandson of William W Wells

Wanting a map to help orient this story of my ancestor’s migration from New York to Michigan, I turned to ChatGPT and asked if there was a map showing the old Territorial Road that ran from Detroit to Chicago in the 1830s. The response pointed me toward several excellent resources:

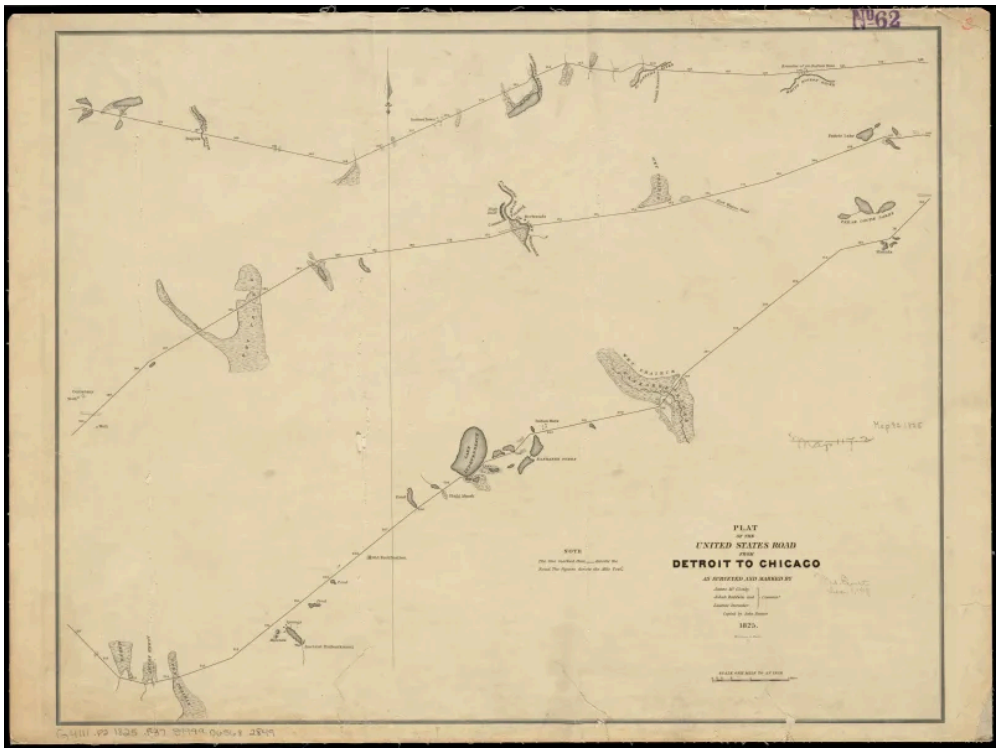
- **1830s survey strip map (primary source):** *Plat of the United States Road from Detroit to Chicago* — a multi-sheet survey with mileposts from Detroit. The Leventhal Map & Education Center provides high-resolution scans of each sheet.
- **1825 maps tied to the road’s creation:** Michigan State University’s *Michigan Road Maps* exhibit includes the early strip map copied by John Farmer in 1825, based on the old Sauk Trail.
- **Contextual territorial maps:** David H. Burr’s *Map of Michigan & Part of Wisconsin Territory* (1839) shows the main overland route across southern Michigan. A digital copy is available through the David Rumsey Map Collection.
- **Modern alignment:** The Territorial Road later became much of today’s **US-12/Michigan Avenue**, now designated the **US-12 Heritage Trail**, with an interactive map and historic markers along the corridor.

When I asked specifically about the Homer and Calhoun County area, ChatGPT pointed me to **Sheet 3 of the 1825 strip survey**. This sheet covers the route from Jackson toward Kalamazoo and includes the Albion–Marshall–Battle Creek corridor, just north of Homer.

For context:

- The full four-sheet survey can be viewed at the Leventhal Map & Education Center.

- A composite viewer at MSU's *Footpaths to Freeways* exhibit allows panning across the entire road.
- On the 1825 plat, the road runs across Calhoun County north of Homer, following the same path as present-day **US-12/Michigan Avenue** through Albion, Marshall, and Battle Creek. Key features to watch for are township lines, section numbers, the **Kalamazoo River crossing**, and the mileposts from Detroit.



Conclusion:
The reminiscences of William W. Wells, preserved in the *Homer Index* and passed down through his grandson Preston Wells, offer a vivid window into the challenges and opportunities of Michigan's pioneer days. Pairing his story with the old Territorial Road maps helps us see the very route he traveled and the communities that grew up along it. For me, it is a reminder that family history isn't only found in names and dates—it also lives in the landscapes our ancestors crossed and the stories they left behind.

ABC Biography: Gladys Mentzer Green

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
October 18, 2025
Mentzer
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/10/18/abc-biography-gladys-mentzer-green/

Gladys Olive (Mentzer) Green (1894–1977)

Early Life and Family

Gladys Olive Mentzer was born on **July 9, 1894**, in **Woodson County, Kansas**, to **Charles Oliver Mentzer** and **Nettie Adell (Wells) Mentzer**. She grew up in a close-knit Kansas family that valued education and community.

The 1895 Kansas census listed two-year-old “Bab Mentzer” living with her parents in Woodson County. A few years later, the 1900 census shows five-year-old “Gladys Mentzur” with her family in the same area. By 1905, the Mentzers were still in Neosho Falls, and Gladys was a ten-year-old schoolgirl. In 1910, the family was in Liberty Township, Coffey County, where fifteen-year-old Gladys was already thinking about becoming a teacher.

Education and Teaching Career

Education shaped much of Gladys’s life. By age twenty, she was already teaching, as shown in the 1915 Kansas census. That same year she attended **Missouri Christian College** in Camden Point, Missouri. Later, she studied at the **Kansas State Normal School** in Emporia, earning a **lifetime teaching certificate in 1918**.

Her early adult years were a mix of teaching and study, and she spent decades in Kansas classrooms, teaching wherever her husband’s work took them.

Marriage and Family Life

On **December 8, 1917**, Gladys married **Roy Vinton Green** in **Coffey County, Kansas**. Roy was also a teacher and later became a superintendent of schools. Together, they shared a love of learning and a devotion to education that marked both their careers.

The couple raised three sons:

1. **Loris Eugene Green**, born **May 28, 1921**, in Osage City, Kansas.
2. **Gerald Roy Green**, born **June 1, 1923**, in Neosho Falls, Kansas.
3. **Kenneth Maurice Green**, born **August 23, 1927**, in Phillipsburg, Kansas.

The family moved often as Roy accepted school positions across Kansas. In 1920, they lived in Neosho Falls; by 1925, they were in Phillipsburg; and in 1930, they were in Clyde, Cloud County, where Gladys taught in the city schools while raising three young sons.

Roy Vinton Green (1891–1951)

Roy was born **August 16, 1891**, in **Colby, Thomas County, Kansas**. Like Gladys, he attended **Kansas State Normal School** in Emporia, graduating in 1918 with a **Bachelor of Science in Education**. He later earned a **master's degree in education** from the **University of Kansas** in 1928.

Roy served as a **Private First Class in Company C, 353rd Infantry** during World War I. Afterward, he built a respected career in education—first as a teacher, then as a superintendent in several Kansas towns. He passed away on **November 26, 1951**, in **Le Roy, Coffey County, Kansas**, and was buried in **Le Roy Cemetery**.

Gladys's Later Years

After Roy's death, Gladys continued to make her mark as both an educator and community member. She remained in **Emporia**, completing a **Bachelor of Science in Education** from the **Kansas State Teachers College** on **May 22, 1954**—a remarkable achievement for someone already long established in the profession.

She was active in professional organizations, serving as **president of the retired teachers' association** in Emporia between 1968 and 1969. In October 1972, she published a **book of poetry**, reflecting her love of words and her thoughtful outlook on life.

Gladys spent her final years at **Kansas Christian Home in Newton**, where she passed away on **June 2, 1977**, at age 82. She was buried beside her husband in **Le Roy Cemetery**.

Legacy

Gladys Mentzer Green devoted her life to learning, family, and community. Across her eighty-two years, she taught generations of Kansas students, inspired fellow educators, and found time to express herself through poetry. Her story echoes the dedication of Kansas teachers who shaped both classrooms and communities—and her descendants can take pride in that lasting legacy.

RootsMagic Narrative Style Report for Gladys Mentzer

Gladys Olive Mentzer [1] was born on 9 Jul 1894 in Woodson County, Kansas. [2–10] Her parents were Charles Oliver Mentzer and Nettie Adell Wells Mentzer.

She was the child of Charles Oliver Mentzer and Nettie Adell Wells. [3]

Bab Mentzer was listed as a 2 year old female born in Kansas in the household of Chas O. Mentzer on the 1895 Kansas census living in Woodson County, Kansas. [11]

Gladys Mentzur was listed as a 5 year old female born July 1894 in KS living in the household of Charles Mentzur in Woodson County, Kansas on the 1900 census [12]

Glads O Mentzer was listed as a 10 year old female born in Kansas living in the household of C. O. Mentzer in Neosho Falls, Woodson County, Kansas on the 1905 Kansas census. [13]

Gladys O. Mentzer was listed as a 15 year old single female born in Kansas living in the household of Charles O. Mentzer in Liberty Township, Coffey County, Kansas on the 1910 census. [14]

She visited with her parents on 17 May 1914 in Crandall, Coffey County, Kansas. [15]

Glades Mentzer was listed as a 20 year old teacher born in Kansas living in the household of C. O. Mentzer in Neosho Township, Coffey County, Kansas on the 1915 Kansas census. [16]

In Nov 1915, Gladys attended Missouri Christian College in Camden Point, Platte, Missouri, United States. [17–20]

Between 1918 and 1919, she was educated at Kansas State Normal School in Emporia, Kansas. [20–21]

She graduated with a lifetime teaching certificate in 1918 in Emporia, Lyon, Kansas, United States. [22–23]

Between 1920 and 1950 Gladys was a teacher.

Gladys Green was listed as the 25 year old wife or Roy V. Green on 1920 census living in Neosho Falls Township, Woodson County, Kansas. According to the census, Gladys was born in Kansas and was employed as a teacher. [24]

Gladys M. Green was listed as the 30 year old wife of Roy V. Green on the 1925 Kansas census living in Phillipsburg, Phillips County, Kansas. According to the census, Gladys was born in Kansas. The household included 2 sons: Loris E, age 3 and Gerald R, aged 1. [25]

Gladys M. Green was listed as the 35 year old wife of Roy V. Green living in Clyde City, Cloud County, Kansas on the 1930 census. According to the census, Gladys was born in Kansas and employed as a teacher in the city schools. Also listed in the household were Loris E., aged 8; Gerald, aged 6 and Kenneth aged 2 7/12. [26]

She lived in Emporia, Kansas in 1936. [27]

She lived in Kirwin, Phillips, Kansas, United States in Feb 1939. [28–29]

Gladys O. Green was listed as the 45 year old wife of Roy V. Green on the 1940 census living in Kirwin, Phillips County, Kansas. According to the census, Gladys was born in Kansas. Also listed in the household were 3 sons, Loris E., aged 18; Gerald R., aged 16 and Kenneth M., aged 12. The family was living in Emporia, Kansas in 1935. [30]

Gladys lived in Emporia, Kansas in 1942. [31–32]

She lived in Burlington, Kansas on 26 Apr 1949. [33]

She attended the funeral of Philip Embry Mentzer on 19 Jul 1952 in Yates Center, Woodson, Kansas, United States. [34–35]

Gladys was graduated on 22 May 1954 from in Emporia, Lyon, Kansas, United States . [36] receiving a Bachelor of Science in Education Degree

She lived at 1014 Market in Emporia, Kansas in Aug 1955. [37–39]

She attended the funeral of John Wesley Williams in 1957 in Yates Center, Woodson, Kansas, United States. [40]

On on 24 Jul 1957, Gladys of Emporia, Lyon, Kansas, United States attended the funeral of John W. Williams. [41] attended the funeral of John W. Williams

Between 1968 and 1969, she was a member and president of retire teacher's association in Emporia, Kansas. [42] and president of retire teacher's association

She published a book of poetry in Oct 1972 in Emporia, Lyon, Kansas, United States. [43]

Gladys lived in Emporia, Kansas in 1976. [44]

She lived at Kansas Christian Home in Newton, Kansas in Mar 1977. [45–47]

She died on 2 Jun 1977 at the age of 82 at Kansas Christian Home in Newton, Kansas. [2–5]

Gladys was buried on 5 Jun 1977 at LeRoy Cemetery in Coffey County, Kansas. [3,5,48]

Gladys Olive Mentzer and Roy Vinton Green were married on 8 Dec 1917 in Coffey County, Kansas. [1,20,49–50]

Roy Vinton Green [51] was born on 16 Aug 1891 in Colby, Thomas, Kansas, United States. [52–55]

He was a member between 1914 and 1915 in Emporia, Lyon, Kansas, United States. [56] of the Berean Club and of the German Club

Between 1914 and 1918, he was educated at Kansas State Normal School in Emporia, Kansas. [57–60]

Roy was a member of the Delphian Debating Society and of the Glee Club between 1915 and 1916 in Emporia, Lyon, Kansas, United States. [61]

He was a member of the Glee Club between 1916 and 1918 in Emporia, Lyon, Kansas, United States. [62–63]

He registered for the draft on 5 Jun 1917 in Coffey, Kansas, United States. [64]

Roy was graduated in 1918 from in Emporia, Lyon, Kansas, United States . [65–66] He received a Bachelor of Science in Education degree

He served in the military as a Private 1st Class in Company C 353rd Infantry in 1919. [67]

He lived in Neosho Falls, Woodson County, Kansas on 13 Jun 1920. [68] Roy V. Green was listed as a 28 year old male born Kansas who was employed as the superintendent of schools.

Roy was listed as Roy V Green on the 1925 census asa 33 year old male teacher in Phillipsburg, Phillips, Kansas, United States on 1 Jun 1925. [69]

In 1926 he was a Superintendent of Schools in Phillipsburg, Phillips, Kansas, United States. [70]

In 1928 he was a Superintendent of Schools in Phillipsburg, Phillips, Kansas, United States. [71]

Roy graduated from KU receiving a M.S. in Education on 16 Oct 1928 from in Lawrence, Douglas, Kansas, United States . [54]

He appeared in the census on 7 Apr 1930 in Clyde, Cloud, Kansas, United States as a 38 year old male born Kansas who was employed as superintendent of the city schools and was listed as Roy V. Green. [72]

In 1931 he was a Superintendent of Schools in Clyde, Cloud, Kansas, United States. [73]

Between 1935 and 1941 Roy was an a teacher in Phillipsburg, Phillips, Kansas, United States. [74]

He lived in Emporia, Kansas in 1936. [75]

He was received Master's Degree in Education in Lawrence, Douglas, Kansas, United States. [74]

Roy was listed on the 1940 census as Roy V. Green, a 48 year old male born in Kansas who was employed as a school teacher, in Kirwin, Phillips, Kansas, United States on 4 Apr 1940. [76]

He registered for the military draft in 1942 in Emporia, Kansas. [77]

He lived in Burlington, Kansas on 26 Apr 1949. [33]

Roy died on 26 Nov 1951 at the age of 60 in Le Roy, Coffey County, Kansas. [52–53,55,78]

He was buried at Le Roy Cemetery in Coffey County, Kansas. [55]

Roy Vinton Green and Gladys Olive Mentzer had the following children:

+2 i **Loris Eugene Green**, born 28 May 1921, Osage City, Osage, Kansas, United States; married Lynda Mix, Dec 1963, Florida, United States; died 25 Dec 2010, Merritt Island, Brevard, Florida, United States.

+3 ii **Gerald Roy Green**, born 1 Jun 1923, Neosho Falls, Woodson, Kansas, United States; married Florine Johnson, 12 Jun 1948, Burlington, Coffey, Kansas, United States; died 23 Apr 2001, Nederland, Jefferson, Texas, United States.

+4 iii **Kenneth Maurice Green**, born 23 Aug 1927, Phillipsburg, Phillips, Kansas, United States; married Rosa Jean Patterson, 1 Jan 1953; died 7 May 2010, New Paltz, Ulster, New York, United States.

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13. 1905 Kansas Census, Neosho Falls, Woodson County, state census, Neosho Falls, Woodson County, Kansas, page 12, Image 152 of 173, household 72, C. O. Mentzer; digital image, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online November 2017); Kansas State Historical Society

14. 1910 U.S. Census, Liberty Township, Coffey County, Kansas, population schedule, Liberty Township, Coffey County, Kansas, ED 15, sheet 7B, Image 14 of 30, household 124, Charles O Mentzer; digital image, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online November 2017)

15. “Crandall,” The Daily Republican (Burlington, Kansas), 19 May 1914, image 6; digital image, Newspapers.com (www.newspapers.com : viewed online August 2018).

16. 1915 Kansas Census, Coffey County, State Census, Coffey County, Neosho Township, 11 (image 21 of 58), Image 21 of 58, dwelling 91, C. O. Mentzer; digital image, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online March 2016)

17. “Briles – Mentzer,” Woodson County Journal (Yates Center, Kansas), 4 November 1915, page 1; digital image, Newspapers.com (www.newspapers.com : viewed online 22 July 2021).

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Saturday Night Genealogy Fun

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
October 19, 2025
SaturdayNightGenealogyFun
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/10/19/saturday-night-genealogy-fun-174/

Calling all Genea-Musings Fans:

It's Saturday Night again –

Time for some more Genealogy Fun!!

Your mission, should you decide to accept it (cue the Mission Impossible! music) is to:

1) Sometimes we don't know the full name of the parents of an ancestor. In our family tree, those ancestors with no-known-name parents are the end-of-the-line, at least as far as we know. [Some researchers call them "brick walls."]

2) Tell us about several of your ancestors that have no known-name parents,

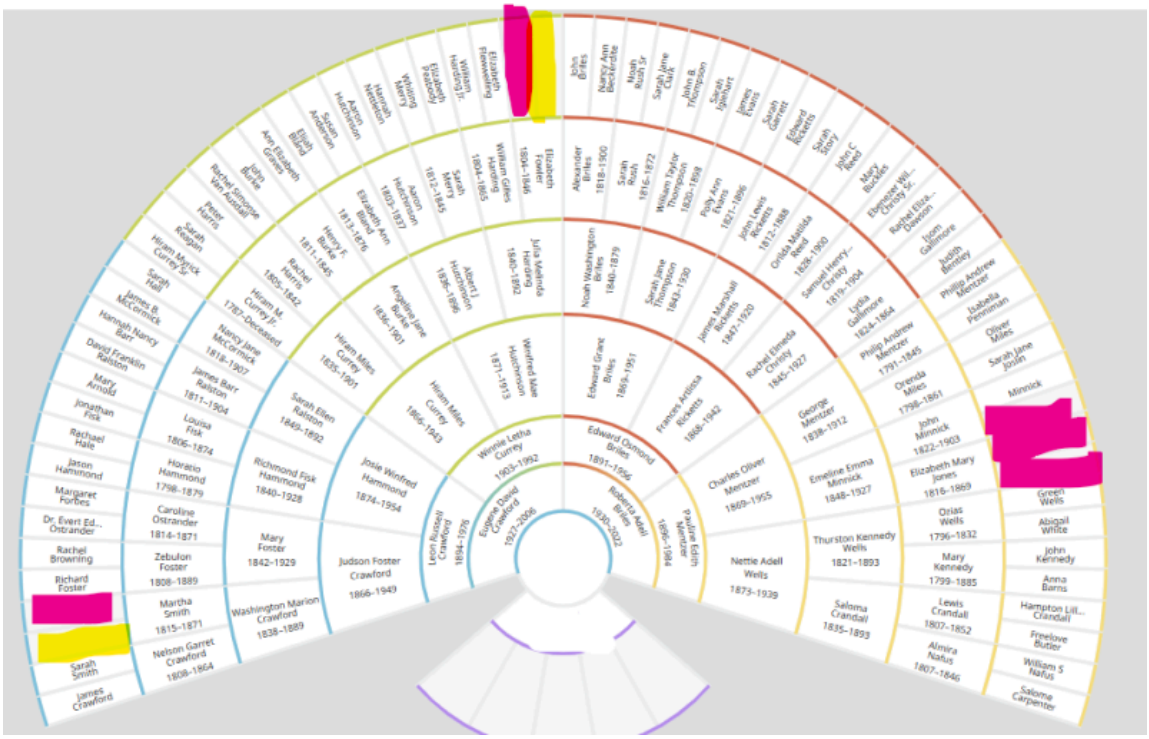
3) When was the last time you looked for these not known parents?

When it comes to ancestors with no known parents, I'd have to say my "no-name" lines are definitely the **SMITH** and **JONES** families. While I haven't devoted a lot of research time to these branches, I have explored the two **SMITH** lines that married into my **CRAWFORD** family. Unfortunately, that research has yet to reveal the identities of the SMITH fathers — leaving those lines stuck at a familiar genealogical roadblock.

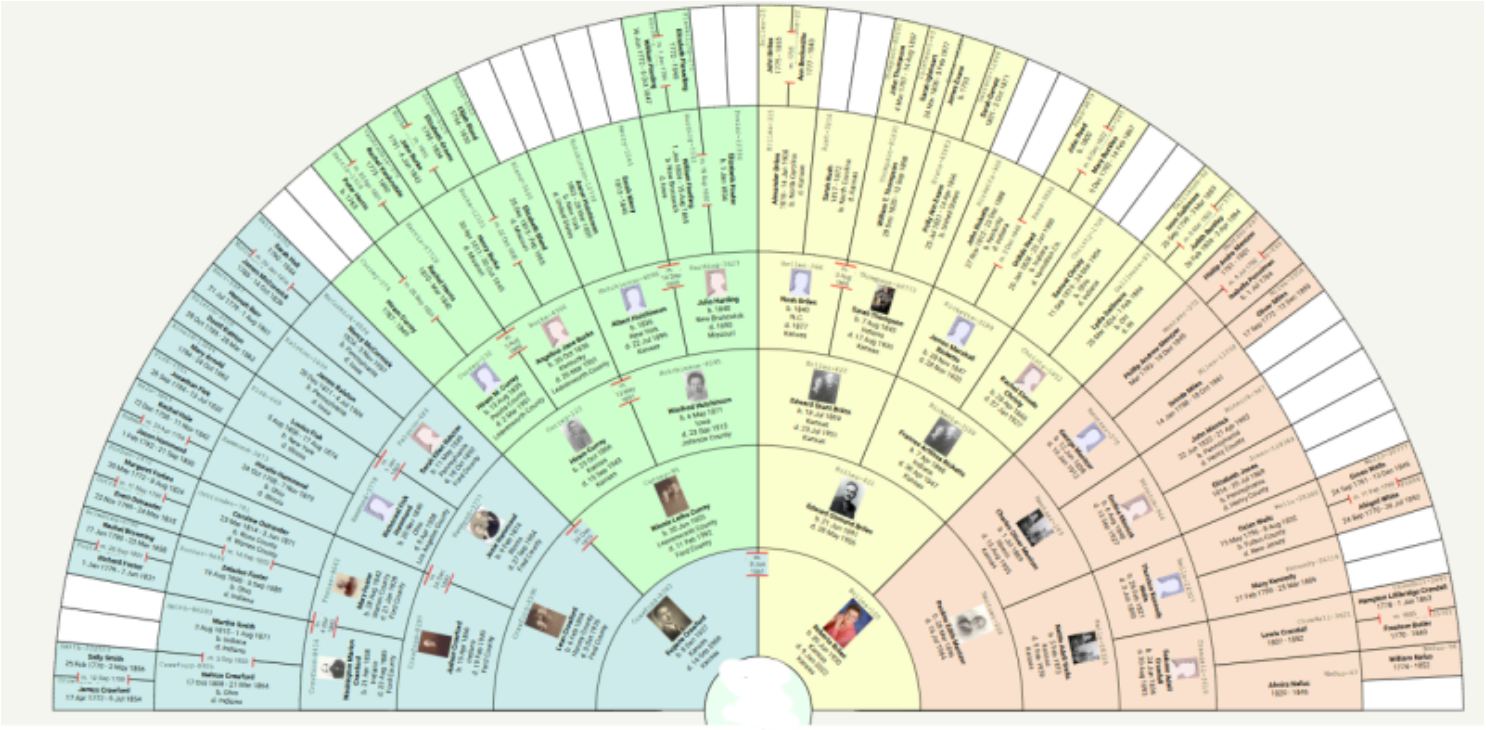
To visualize where these gaps occur, I created a **seven-generation chart** from my corner of the **FamilySearch** tree.

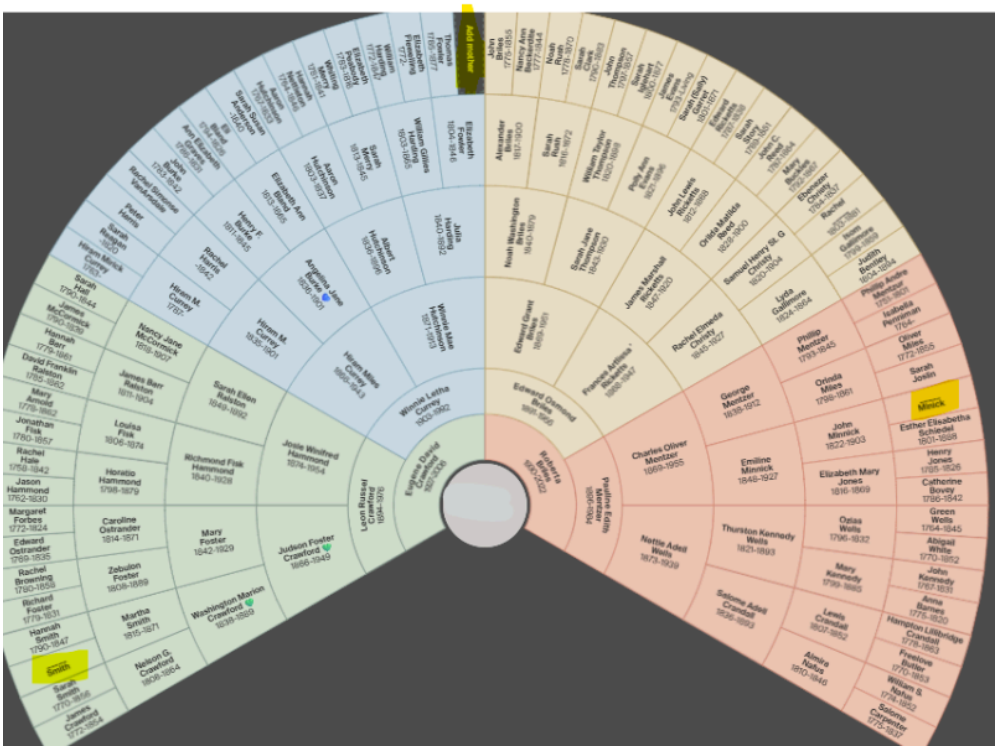
The **yellow highlighting** calls out those ancestors whose names remain completely unknown — my true "end-of-the-line" individuals.

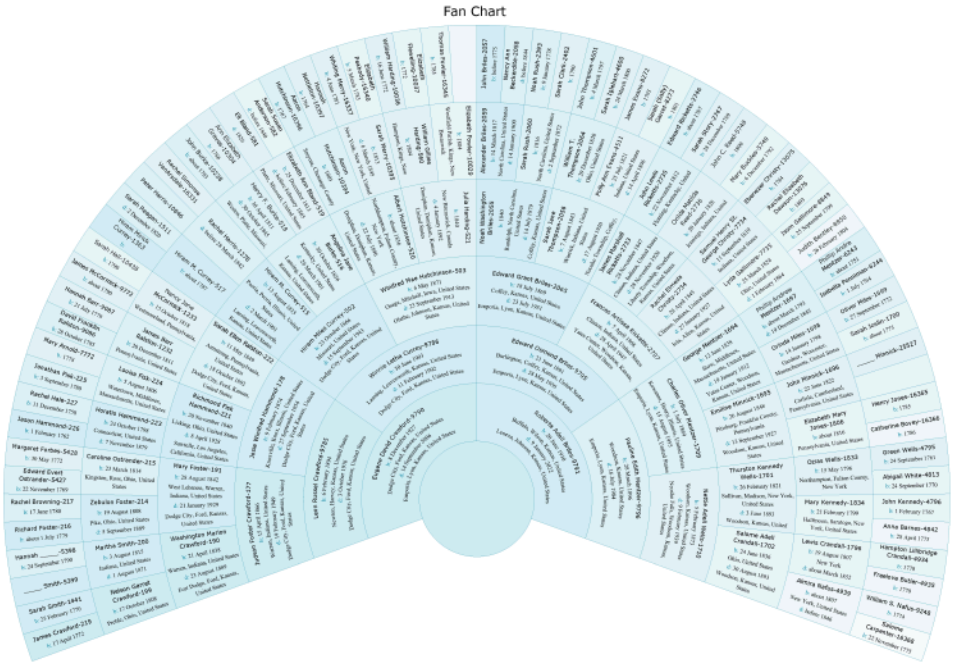
The **bright pink highlighting** marks ancestors that are already identified in my Ancestry tree but have not yet been added to FamilySearch.



Out of curiosity, I pulled up the same seven-generation view in **WikiTree** and **Ancestry**, and then generated another chart from **RootsMagic**. Comparing them side by side was an interesting exercise — a visual reminder that even with multiple trees, there are still a few stubborn blank spaces we all live with.







While I could spend some time working in WikiTree to fill in that seventh generation, solving these particular “unknown ancestor” mysteries isn’t at the top of my to-do list right now. For the moment, I’m content knowing where the gaps are — and that someday, when the right record surfaces, one of those yellow boxes just might turn pink.

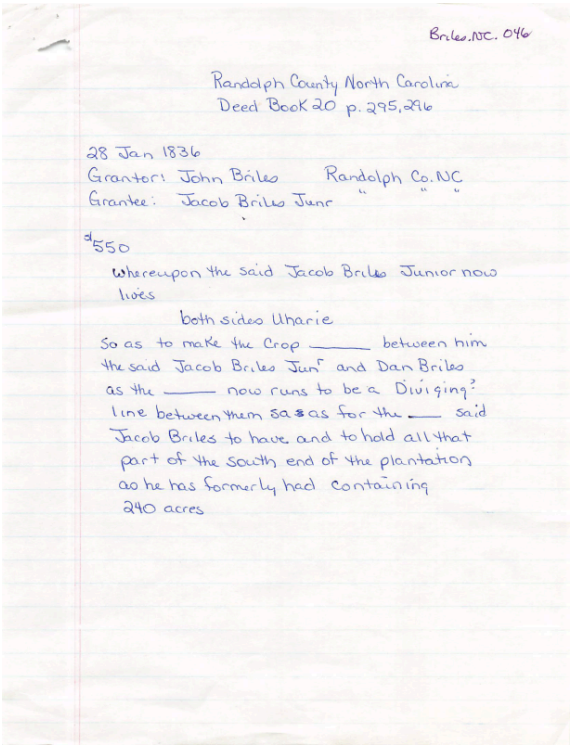
Even though these “unknowns” remain a mystery for now, they serve as a quiet reminder that genealogy is never really finished. Each blank space on the chart represents a story waiting to be found — and part of the fun is knowing that the next discovery might be just one record away.

Monday's Diggings

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
October 20, 2025
Briles
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/10/20/mondays-diggings-15/

Today's record comes from my BRILES folder and includes both my original research notes and an image of a deed. I first located this record years ago while scrolling microfilm at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. At the time, those handwritten notes and photocopies were my only way to capture the information. Thanks to FamilySearch's Full Text Search feature, I can now revisit this same deed from home—and even generate a full transcription with just a few keystrokes.

Below, you'll find my original notes alongside the transcription created using FamilySearch's powerful search capabilities.



Briles.NC. 046

Randolph County North Carolina
Deed Book 20 p. 295, 296

28 Jan 1836
Grantor: John Briles Randolph Co. NC
Grantee: Jacob Briles Junr " " "

$550
Whereupon the said Jacob Briles Junior now lives
both sides Uharie
So as to make the Crop ____ between him the said Jacob Briles Junr and Dan Briles as the ____ now runs to be a Diviging line between them so as for the ____ said Jacob Briles to have and to hold all that part of the South end of the plantation as he has formerly had containing 240 acres

Randolph County North Carolina
Record of Deeds, 1779-1963

Deeds, v. 19-21 1831-1939
film 19637 DGS 7517640

Image 287 – Book 20

page 295 (image 440)

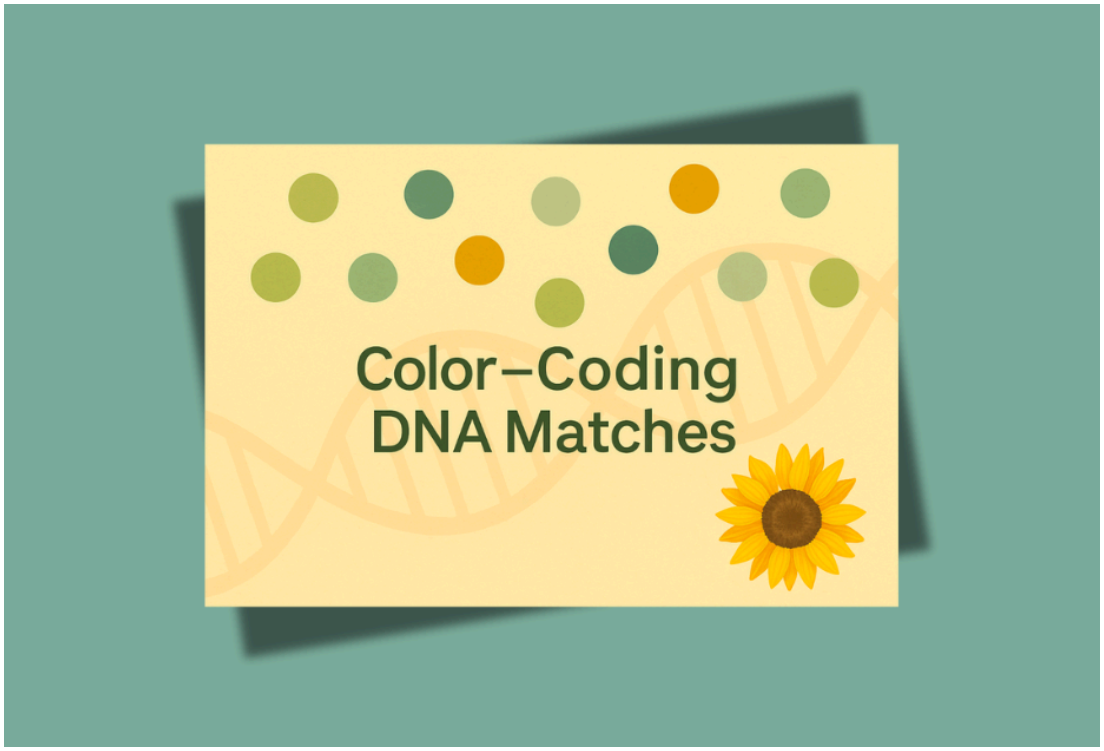
This Indenture made this 28th day of January in the
year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty six
between John Briles of the County of Randolph and State of North
Carolina of the one part & Jacob Briles Junr of County & state
aforesaid of the other part witnesseth that for and in consideration
of the sum of five hundred & fifty dollars to him in hand
paid by the said Jacob Briles Junr the receipt whereof he doth
hereby acknowledge hath this day bargained sold and delivered
unto him the said Jacob Briles junr a certain tract of land
on both sides of Uharie whereupon the said Jacob Briles Jur
now lives being so as to make the cross fence between him
the said Jacob Briles Jur & Dan Briles as the fence now
runs to be a divigning line between them so as for the

page 296
said Jacob Briles to have & to hold all that part of the south
end of the plantation as he has formerly had containing two
hundred & forty four acres be the same more or less together with
of woods waters ways mines minerals and appurtenances
thereunto belonging or in any wise appertaining to have and
to hold or in any way belonging to him the said Jacob Briles Jr
his heirs or assigns forever & the said John Briles for himself
his heirs & assigns extrs & admrs will warrant & forever defend
the above named land & promises unto him the said Jacob
Briles Jur his heirs & assigns forever In witness whereof I
have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day
and year above written
John Briles (seal)
Signed Sealed in presence of us
Joseph Hoover senr
Joseph Hoover Jur
State of North Carolina
Randolph County
Court of please & quarter sessions
May term 1836
The execution of this deed was duly acknowledged in
open court & ordered to be registered
Hugh McCain CCC

Looking back, I'm grateful for the time spent in Salt Lake City turning microfilm readers and scribbling notes. Those efforts provided the foundation for my research, while today's digital tools make it possible to revisit and expand on that work with ease. Having both sets of records—the handwritten notes from years ago and the searchable transcriptions available now—not only preserves the history but also highlights how far genealogy research has come.

DNA Color Coding

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
October 21, 2025
DNA
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/10/21/dna-color-coding/

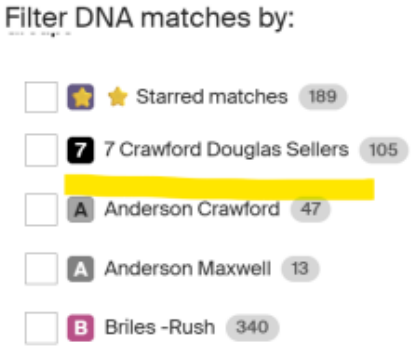


Refining My Use of Colored Dots for DNA Matches

Have you used *Your DNA Guide's* color-coding system by Diahan Southard? It took me a few replays of the videos to really grasp the method, but once I did, it became one of my favorite tools for organizing my many DNA matches on Ancestry.

Lately, I've been applying this technique to identify matches who descend from the **SELLERS** family. In doing so, I also discovered a cluster of **CRAWFORD** matches—descendants of a man who appears to be a brother of my fifth great-grandfather.

As I color-coded the shared matches, I realized it would be helpful to create an **additional color for ThruLines matches**. That led to the creation of my new color label: **"7 Crawford Douglas Sellers."** The label's name follows my personal convention—beginning with the generation number and followed by the surnames of the ancestral couple. In this case, I added **SELLERS** so I could instantly recognize that this group includes ThruLines descendants of the Crawford daughters who married into the Sellers family.



Adding Generational Layers

As I continue my color-coding efforts, I'm expanding my system to include generational groupings:

- **ThruLines matches** receive both a *couple color* and a *generational color.*
- **Shared matches** of those ThruLines individuals receive only the *couple color.*

This approach lets me scroll through my matches and quickly see which ones are identified by ThruLines—and which ones still need to be placed in my tree.

In the image below, all the matches display a green **“C”** dot, representing **Crawford Smith (Nelson G. Crawford)** descendants. Matches that also have a **“3”** or **“4”** dot are ThruLines matches, while those without numbered dots have not yet been connected through ThruLines.

As I keep refining my color-coding system, I’m reminded how flexible Diahan Southard’s method really is. The more I adapt it to my research, the more clearly I can see the family connections hidden in my DNA matches.

Exploring My Crawford DNA Connections

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
October 22, 2025
Crawford,DNA
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/10/22/exploring-my-crawford-dna-connections/

After discovering several DNA matches who share DNA with descendants of **John Crawford** through his daughters' **Sellers** lines, I decided to see if I could do something similar with descendants of **John Crawford** and his brothers, **James** and **William**.

Following the same process I used for the Sellers research, I temporarily changed the parents of my **James Crawford** in my Ancestry tree to test different hypotheses:

- John (Rebekah) Crawford
- James (Rebecca) Crawford
- William (Elizabeth) Crawford

This allowed me to use **ThruLines** to identify matches descending from each of these three Crawford lines. Once I had those autosomal matches, my goal was to use **GEDmatch** to see if I could find a shared DNA segment that might help confirm a common Crawford connection.

Since I didn't recognize most of these matches, I turned to GEDmatch's "**People Who Match Both or 1 of 2 kits**" tool. For the comparison, I used my own kit and that of a known descendant of **James and Rebekah Crawford**. My hope was that those who matched both kits would share **Crawford DNA**, helping identify a possible **Crawford segment**.

However, after reviewing the GEDCOM data and linked **WikiTree** profiles, that didn't appear to be the case. Instead, I found trees with **Van Arsdale** and **Neafus** ancestry—both surnames that do appear in my family tree, but not within the Crawford branch.

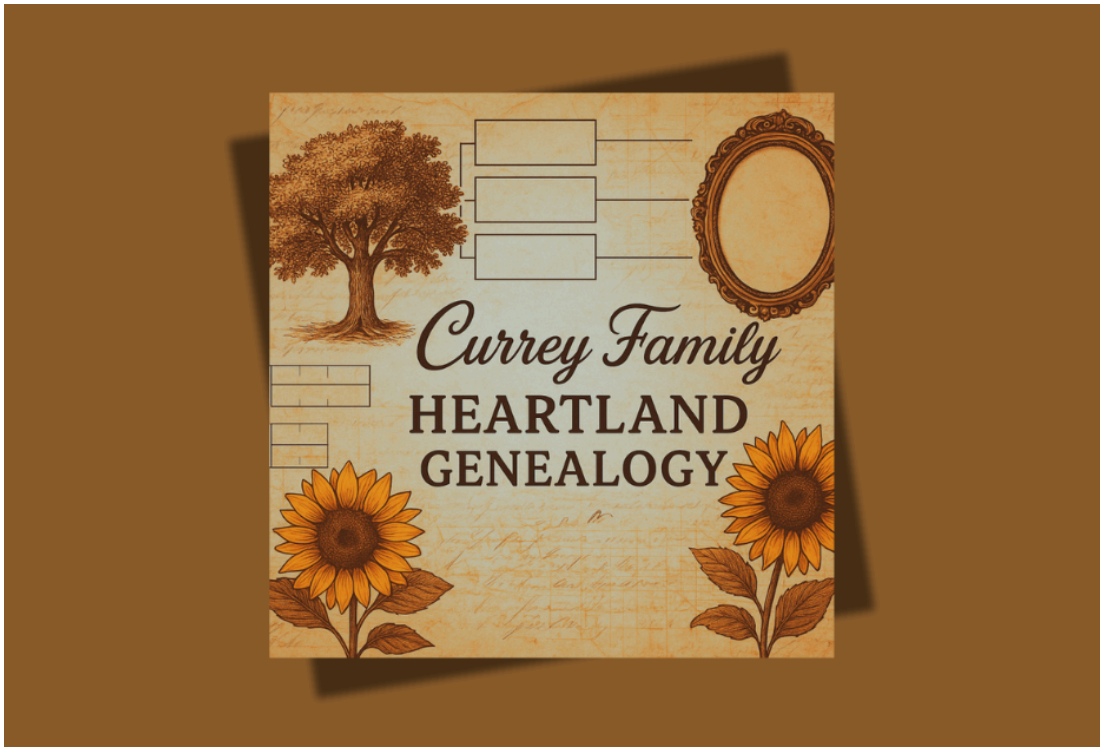
35. Pamelia Drake 04 Jan 1794 Hopewell
4. Robert Augustus Gantz 11 Nov 1912 Mount Rose,
36. John Oppie 09 Aug 1798 Somerset Co
18. James Olin Opie 24 Sep 1823 Bridgepoint
37. Ann Van Arsdalen 29 Jun 1797 Bridg
9. Emma Estella Opie 22 Jun 1873 Bridgepoint, So
38. Gerardus Beekman abt 1824 - 22 Au
19. Martha Beekman 10 Mar 1846 New Jerse
bison 1950s -
24. Jesse Taylor Shacklett 10 Jul 1839 Ekron,
12. Eugene Lawrence Shacklett 10 Mar 1890 Mea
200. Benjamin Rust Singleton
100. John Shumate Singleton 05 Ma
201. Mary Shumate 14 Jan 1780
50. Benjamin Franklin Singleton 18 Jan
202. George W. Nevius abt
101. M. Adaline Neafus 19 Mar 1806
203. Sarah Richmire abt 1783 Nel
25. Mary Addie Singleton 1859 Brandenburg, M
204. Benjamin Allen Jr abt
102. Marshall Allen abt 1792 Kentucky,

At this point, I don't have enough GEDmatch kit numbers from confirmed Crawford descendants to identify a shared DNA segment. So for now, I can't prove that I share DNA with the descendants of John, James, or William Crawford. Still, this process has provided valuable clues and will help guide my next steps in exploring the Crawford DNA connections.

Although I haven't yet pinpointed a shared Crawford DNA segment, this research journey has deepened my understanding of how interconnected these early Crawford families were. Each analysis—whether through ThruLines, GEDmatch, or traditional genealogy—adds another piece to the Crawford puzzle. My next step will be to locate additional tested descendants from the various Crawford lines and see if new data can help connect these pieces into a clearer genetic picture of our shared ancestry.

A Promising Lead

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
October 23, 2025
Currey
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/10/23/a-promising-lead/



Hiram Currey's Bounty Land Warrant

In a recent post, I wrote about my 3rd-great-grandfather, **Hiram M. Currey**, who disappeared from records before 1850. I followed that mystery with an AI-generated research plan to help me track down new clues. One of the discoveries from that plan was a **Bounty Land Warrant** issued to a *Hiram M. Currey* who assigned land in **Iowa** to **John Beyer**.

According to that warrant, Hiram Currey had served as a **private in Captain Beall's Company of Louisiana Volunteers** during the **Mexican-American War**. Naturally, my first thought was that this could be *my* Hiram Currey—but as every genealogist knows, names can be deceiving. There were other men named Hiram Currey (and Curry) living at the time, so I can't yet claim this soldier as my ancestor.

The **FamilySearch database "Mexican War Index and Service Records, 1846–1848"** confirms that a *Hiram Curry* served in the **3rd Louisiana Regiment**. My ancestor, however, had earlier military experience in the **Black Hawk War** and was known as a **lawyer in Peoria County, Illinois**—with no evidence linking him to Louisiana or to Captain Beall's command.

So, while this bounty land record is an intriguing lead, the connection remains unproven. More research—perhaps through pension files, land assignments, or Louisiana enlistment rolls—will be needed to determine whether this soldier was indeed the same **Hiram M. Currey** who once practiced law in Peoria.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:
WHEREAS, In pursuance of the Act of Congress, approved March 3, 1855, entitled an “An Act in addition to certain Acts granting Bounty Land to certain Officers and Soldiers who have been engaged in the military service of the United States,” there has been deposited in the GENERAL LAND OFFICE,
Warrant No. 11052 for 120 acres, in favor of Hiram Currey,
a Private in Captain Beall’s Company of Louisiana Volunteers
War with Mexico,
with evidence that the same has been duly located upon the West fractional half of the South West quarter and the North East quarter of the South West fractional quarter of Section Seven in Township Eighty-three North of Range Thirteen West, in the District of Lands formerly subject to sale at Iowa City now Fort Des Moines Iowa, containing one hundred and thirty four acres and thirteen hundredths of an acre,
according to the Official Plat of the Survey of said Lands returned to the GENERAL LAND OFFICE by the SURVEYOR GENERAL. The said warrant having been assigned by the said Hiram Currey to John Beyer in whose favor the said tract has been located.
NOW KNOW YE, That there is therefore granted by the UNITED STATES unto the said John Beyer as assignee as aforesaid and to his heirs
the tract of Land above described: TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said tract of Land with the appurtenances thereof, unto the said John Beyer as assignee as aforesaid and to his heirs and assigns forever.
In testimony whereof, I, Franklin Pierce,
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have caused these Letters to be made Patent, and the SEAL OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE to be hereunto affixed.
GIVEN under my hand, at the CITY OF WASHINGTON, the Twentieth day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty seven, and of the INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES the Eighty first.
BY THE PRESIDENT:
Franklin Pierce
By G. G. Greene Sec’y
J. N. Granger
Recorder of the General Land Office

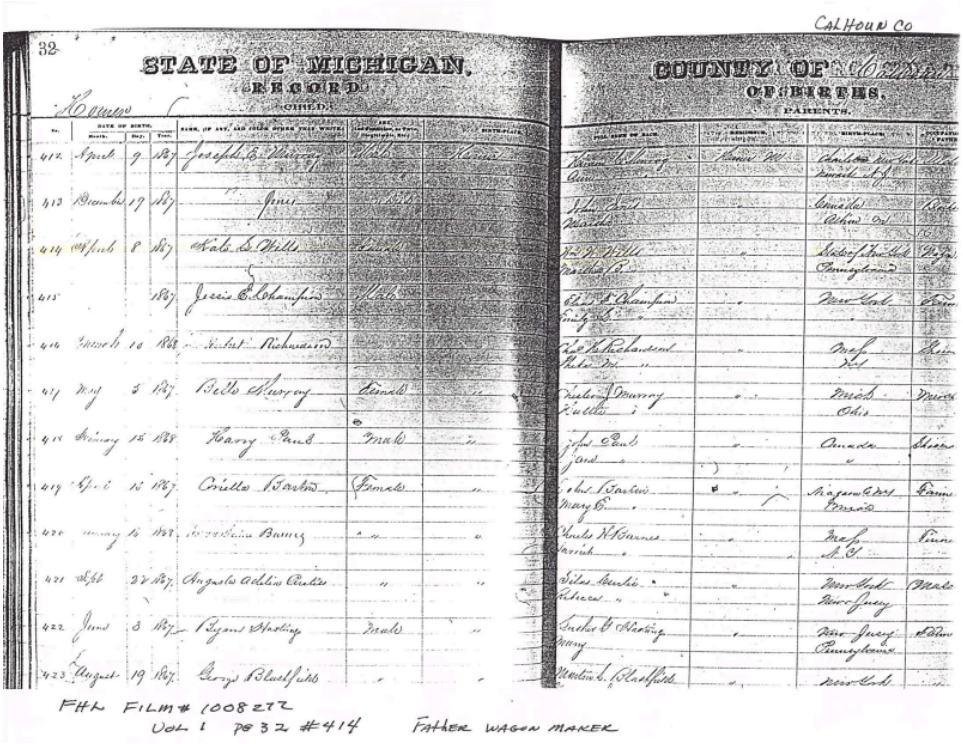
Friday Find

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
October 24, 2025
Michigan,Wells
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/10/24/friday-find-97/

Birth and Death Records for Kate Wells

Today's find from my **WELLS** notebook includes two important documents for **Kate Wells** — her **birth record** and her **death record**. Together, these records confirm that Kate was the daughter of **William W. Wells** and **Martha B. Wells**, making her my **first cousin three times removed**.

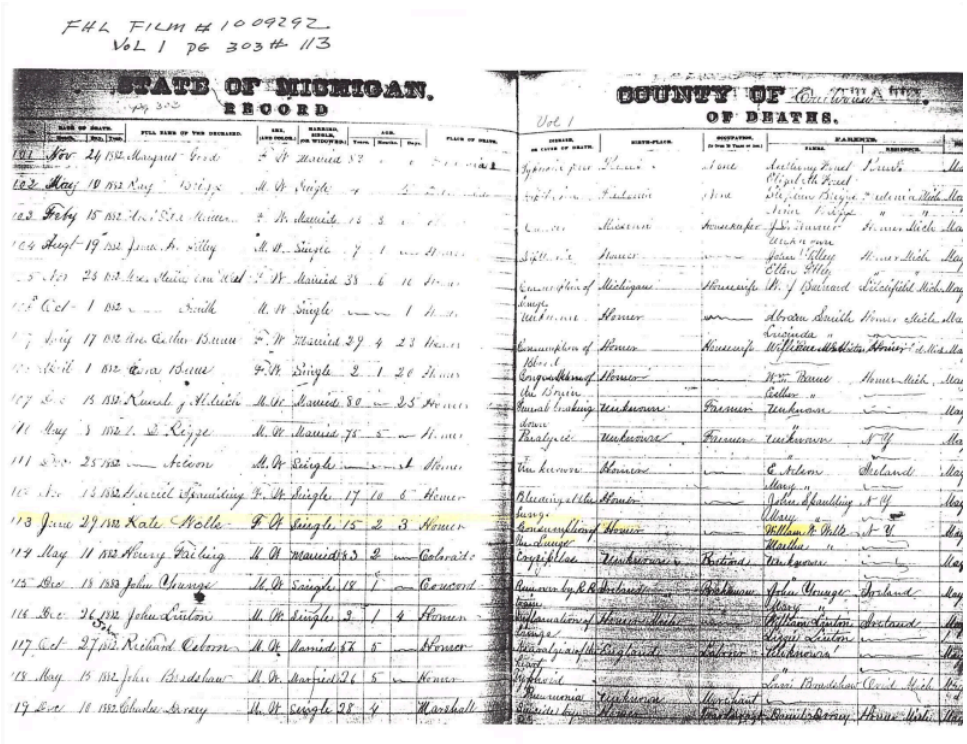
These photocopies were originally sent to me years ago by a Michigan researcher. At the time, they were treasured additions to my files. Now, thanks to **FamilySearch's Full-Text Search**, I can access both records online. However, the site's transcription format lists the information by *vertical columns*, making it a bit tricky to read across as we would expect.



Calhoun County, Michigan BIRTHS

414 April 8 1867 Kate S Wells Female parents Wm W Wells born state of New York wagon maker / Martha B born Pennsylvania

“Calhoun, Michigan, United States records,” images, FamilySearch (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-GBZP-7PW?view=explore : Oct 13, 2025), image 78 of 799; . Image Group Number: 005191193



Calhoun county, Michigan DEATHS

113 June 29 1882 Kate Wells F w Single age 15 years 2 months 3 days, place of death Homer consumption of the lungs, birthplace Homer, parents William W Wells born N.Y. and Martha B; date of record May 29, 1883

“Calhoun, Michigan, United States records,” images, FamilySearch (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-99V3-2QS?view=explore : Oct 13, 2025), image 350 of 721; . Image Group Number: 007608497

Even though these records are now easy to find online, I doubt I would have searched for Kate's information without those old photocopies tucked away in my notebook. Sometimes, those early research exchanges — a letter, a photocopy, or a kind note from another genealogist — become the breadcrumbs that still lead us to discoveries today.

ABC Biography: Paul Mentzer

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
October 25, 2025
Mentzer
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/10/25/abc-biography-paul-mentzer/

Paul Emory Mentzer (1896–1942)

Early Life

Paul Emory Mentzer was born on **March 28, 1896**, in **Yates Center, Woodson County, Kansas**. He was the son of **Charles Oliver Mentzer** and **Nettie Adell Wells Mentzer**. He was a twin brother to Pauline Mentzer. The family lived in rural southeast Kansas, and Paul grew up surrounded by small farming communities like **Neosho Falls** and **Liberty Township** in nearby **Coffey County**.

As a boy, Paul appeared with his parents on early Kansas and U.S. census records, always in or near his birthplace. In the 1900 census he was just four years old; by 1905 he was eight and living in Neosho Falls; and by 1910, a teenager in Liberty Township. The 1915 Kansas census listed him as an **eighteen-year-old agricultural laborer**, typical work for a young man helping on a family farm in that era.

Military Service in World War I

When the United States entered World War I, Paul registered for the draft on **June 5, 1917**. He was later assigned to **Company E, 139th Infantry, 35th Division** and departed **New York City** aboard the transport ship *Caronia* on **April 25, 1918**.

While serving in France with the **American Expeditionary Forces**, Paul was **seriously wounded** around **September 1918** when a shell exploded nearby. He suffered shrapnel wounds to his chest and left leg, burns, and gas exposure. He eventually recovered enough to return home, and in **January 1919** he sent a postcard to his sister, **Mrs. E. O. Briles**, from Niagara Falls, saying he was on his way back to **Camp Funston** in Kansas.

Education and Early Career

After returning from the war, Paul settled back in Kansas. The 1920 census found him in **Everett Township, Woodson County**, working as a **garage mechanic**. On **August 25, 1921**, he married **Ada Ellen Saferite** in **Neosho Falls**, beginning a lifelong partnership.

Paul valued education. By **1925** he had earned a **Bachelor of Science degree** from the **Kansas State Teachers College of Pittsburg** (now Pittsburg State University). That same year he was teaching manual training—what we might call industrial arts today—in **Burr Oak**, **Jewell County, Kansas**.

A year later, in **1926**, he accepted a position as a **manual training instructor** at the high school in **Council Grove, Kansas**. His teaching career was well established by the 1930s, when he and Ada were living in **Eureka Township, Saline County**, where he was again listed as a teacher.

Later Years in Education

By **1933**, Paul had moved into administration as **principal** of the school in **Gas, Allen County, Kansas**. A few years later, the family relocated to **Colorado**, living at **247 Fillmore Street** in **Denver** by **1937**.

In **1939–1940**, Paul and Ada lived in **Lyons, Boulder County**, where the 1940 census described him as a **manual training teacher**. Teaching practical skills was a respected and steady occupation during the Great Depression, and Paul's work would have equipped many young people for trades when jobs were scarce.

Tragic Death

In the early 1940s, Paul's health and career took him to **Springfield, Baca County, Colorado**, where he also registered for the **World War II draft** as a veteran. Tragically, on **August 14, 1942**, at the age of **46**, he was **killed in an accident** at a public-school building in Springfield, fracturing his skull in a fall.

Paul was buried four days later, on **August 18, 1942**, at **Cedarvale Cemetery** in his hometown of **Neosho Falls, Kansas**.

Family

Paul's wife, **Ada Ellen Saferite Mentzer**, was born on **April 6, 1894**, also in **Neosho Falls**. She lived in Kansas and Colorado during their marriage and survived her husband by more than 30 years, passing away on **November 18, 1973**, in **Grandview, Jackson County, Missouri**. She was laid to rest beside Paul in **Cedarvale Cemetery**.

Paul and Ada had three known children:

1. **Ada Mentzer**, who died before 1929.
2. **Delos Paul Mentzer**, born **April 28, 1923**, in **Pittsburg, Crawford County, Kansas**. He served in the military, married **Elva Sweet** in **1944** and later **Carrie Beryl Schumaker** in **1955**, and died in **1976**.
3. **Eugene Charles Mentzer**, born **March 25, 1928**, who lived in **Kipp, Saline County, Kansas**, until his death in **2004**.

A Life of Service and Learning

Paul Emory Mentzer's life reflected the values of his Kansas upbringing—**service, perseverance, and education**. From the fields of Woodson County to the battlefields of France and finally to the classrooms of Kansas and Colorado, Paul devoted himself to building, teaching, and helping others. Though his life was cut short, his influence lived on through his students, his children, and the community roots his family maintained for generations.

RootsMagic Narrative Style Report for Paul Mentzer

Paul Emory Mentzer [1] was born on 28 Mar 1896 in Yates Center, Kansas. Paul had a twin sister Pauline. [1–5]

He was the child of Charles Oliver Mentzer and Nettie Adell Wells. [6]

Paul Mentzer was listed as the son of Charles Mentzer on the 1900 census in Woodson County, Kansas. According to the census, Paul was born Mar 1896 in Kansas. [7]

He was listed as Paul Mentzer, an 8 year old male born in Kansas, on the 1905 census living in Neosho Falls, Woodson County, Kansas on 1 Jul 1905. [8]

The 1910 census shows a 13 year old single male born Kansas who was listed as Paul E. Mentzer living in Liberty Township, Coffey County, Kansas on 27 Apr 1910. [9]

The 1915 Kansas census shows an 18 year old agriculture laborer born in Kansas who was listed as Paul Mentzer in Neosho Township, Coffey County, Kansas. [10]

Paul registered for the draft on 5 Jun 1917 in Woodson County, Kansas. [11]

On 25 Apr 1918, he departed aboard the Caronia as part of the 139th Infantry from in New York City. [12]

About Sep 1918, he was wounded when a 9 inch shell burst near him while serving in Co. E 139th Infantry A.E.F. He had shrapnel wounds in his chest and and on his left leg just above his knee. He also was burned by the powder from the shell and gassed. [13–14]

On 13 Jan 1919, Paul sent a Niagara Falls postcard to his sister, Mrs. E. O. Briles, stating that he was on his way to Funston. [15]

The 1920 census shows a 23 year old male Paul Mentzer who was born in Kansas and employed as a garage mechanic living in Everett Township, Woodson County, Kansas. [16]

He married Ada Ellen Saferite on 25 Aug 1921 in Neosho Falls, Woodson County, Kansas. [17–20]

He lived in Pittsburg, Kansas in 1925. [21]

He received a Bachelor of Science Degree from Kansas State Teachers College of Pittsburg on 28 May 1925 in Pittsburg, Kansas. [22–24]

In Aug 1925 Paul was an a manual training teacher in Burr Oak, Jewell County, Kansas. [25]

In Aug 1926 he was a manual training instructor at the high school in Coucil Grove, Kansas. [26]

He registered as a veteran of WWI in 1930 in Saline County, Kansas. [27]

The 1930 census shows a 34 year old Paul E. Mentzer who was born in Kansas and employed as a teacher living in Eureka Township, Saline County, Kansas. [28]

In Aug 1933 Paul was a principal in Gas, Allen County, Kansas. [29]

He lived at 247 Fillmore in Denver, Colorado in 1937. [30]

He lived in Lyons, Boulder County, Colorado in Feb 1939. [31–32]

The 1940 census shows a 44 year old Paul Mentzer who was born in Kansas and employed as a manual training teacher living in Lyons, Boulder County, Colorado. [33]

Paul was a patient at Fitzsimmons Hospital in Springfield, Baca County, Colorado about 1941. [34]

He registered for the draft in 1942 in Springfield, Baca County, Colorado. [35]

He lived in Springfield, Baca County, Colorado in Aug 1942. [1,34]

Paul died on 14 Aug 1942 in Lamar, Prowers, Colorado, United States at the age of 46. He fractured his skull in an accident at a public school building in Springfield, Colorado. [1–3,34,36–39]

He was buried on 18 Aug 1942 at Cedarvale Cemetery in Neosho Falls, Woodson County, Kansas. [1–2,34,38,40–42]

Paul Emory Mentzer and Ada Ellen Saferite were married on 25 Aug 1921 in Neosho Falls, Woodson County, Kansas. [17–20]

Ada Ellen Saferite [43] was born on 6 Apr 1894 in Neosho Falls, Woodson County, Kansas. [43–47]

She married Paul Emory Mentzer on 25 Aug 1921 in Neosho Falls, Woodson County, Kansas. [17–20]

She lived in Pittsburg, Kansas in 1925. [48]

She appeared on the census as a 36 year old female born Kansas living in Eureka Township, Saline County, Kansas on 15 Apr 1930. [28]

Ada lived in Denver, Colorado in 1937. [49]

She appeared on the census as a 46 year old female born in Kansas living in in Lyons, Boulder County, Colorado on 16 Apr 1940. [33]

She sold land on 6 Dec 1946 in Allen County, Kansas. [50]

Ada died on 18 Nov 1973 at the age of 79 in Grandview, Jackson County, Missouri. [43,45–46,51]

She was buried on 20 Nov 1973 at Neosho Falls Cemetery in Neosho Falls, Woodson County, Kansas. [43,45–47]

Paul Emory Mentzer and Ada Ellen Saferite had the following children:

2 i **Ada Mentzer** [52] died before 1929. [52]

+3 ii **Delos Paul Mentzer**, born 28 Apr 1923, Pittsburg, Crawford, Kansas, United States; married Elva Sweet, 3 Sep 1944, Maine; married Carrie Beryl Schumaker, 17 Jul 1955, Iola, Allen, Kansas, United States; died 8 May 1976.

+4 iii **Eugene Charles Mentzer**, born 25 Mar 1928; died 29 Dec 2004, Kipp, Saline, Kansas, United States.

ENDNOTES:

1. Paul Emory Mentzer, death certificate #10912 (August 1942), State of Colorado, Colorado Department of Health, Denver, Colorado.

2. Find a Grave, database and images, Find a Grave (www.findagrave.com : viewed online April 2017), memorial for Paul E. Mentzer (1896-1942), Find a Grave Memorial no. #118586494, created by larry gifford, citing Cedarvale Cemetery, Neosho Falls, Woodson County, Kansas; accompanying photograph by larry gifford, Paul E. Mentzer.

3. “U.S., Veterans Administration Master Index, 1917-1940,” Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online (28 July 2021), Paul Emory Mentzer.

4. Mentzer, George, Family Bible of Emeline Minnick Mentzer (no place: no publisher, no date); Doris Ryan, Yates Center, KS, Paul Emory Mentzer Mar 28 1896

5. Crawford Family Papers; privately held by Marcia Philbrick, Seneca, Kansas, 2016. Bible Charles O. Mentzer. passed down to Marcia Philbrick by Pauline Briles.

6. Social Security Administration, “Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007,” database on-line, Ancestry, Ancestry.com (https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/60901/ : viewed online October 2017), Paul Emory Mentzer.

7. 1900 U.S. Census, North Township, Woodson County, Kansas, population schedule, North Township, Woodson County, Kansas, SD 4, ED 186, page 1A, Image 1 of 12, household 2, Mentzer Charles; digital image, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online July 2016); FHL microfilm: 1240503

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Saturday Night Genealogy Fun — AI Biography for Albert Hutchinson (ca. 1836-1896)

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
October 26, 2025
Uncategorized
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/10/26/saturday-night-genealogy-fun-ai-biography-for-albert-hutchinson-ca-1836-1896/

This week's *Saturday Night Genealogy Fun* challenge from Randy Seaver invited us to use one of the free AI tools to create a short biography of an ancestor using our own research notes, timeline, or narrative.

For this challenge, I selected **Albert Hutchinson (ca. 1836–1896)** — a Civil War veteran who spent much of his life farming in Iowa before moving to Missouri and Kansas. I provided ChatGPT with my compiled narrative report and asked it to create a 500-word biography suitable for family members.

Below is the result.

Biography of Albert Hutchinson (ca. 1836–1896)

Albert Hutchinson was born around 1836 in Northampton, Fulton County, New York. By 1850, the fourteen-year-old was living in Wheatland, Monroe County, in the household of Ephraim and Cynthia Finch, perhaps working or boarding with the family.

Sometime during the 1850s, Albert left New York and headed west to Iowa. On **September 14, 1859**, he married **Julia Harding** in Black Hawk County. The 1860 census shows the couple living in Mount Vernon Township, where Albert worked as a farmer. Also in the household were Julia's sister Isabella Harding and a man named Loren Gilbert. Their first two children, **Gertrude** and **Albert G.**, were born in Iowa before the Civil War disrupted their lives.

Albert enlisted in **Company D of the 1st Iowa Cavalry Volunteers** under Captain Jinks. He served through much of the war, first mustered out in December 1863 at Little Rock, Arkansas, and reenlisting the very next day. In 1864, while serving in Arkansas and later Texas, he was briefly marked absent without leave, a reminder of the challenges soldiers faced during long campaigns far from home. He was discharged from service on **February 15, 1866**, in Austin, Texas, after nearly four years in uniform.

Returning to Iowa, Albert resumed farming and expanded his family. Between 1865 and 1884, he and Julia welcomed several more children: **William Henry, Frederick, Cary, Winifred ("Winnie"), Elnora, Guy Thomas, Francesca**, and **Elvira**. Land and census records place the family in **Bremer County** in 1870 and later in **Mitchell County** by 1880, where Albert continued farming.

By 1890, Albert had moved to **Fishing River Township, Clay County, Missouri**, where he was recorded as a Civil War veteran. Later that year, he began receiving a pension for his service. On **August 8, 1893**, Albert married **Honore Eliza Van Valkenberg** in St. Joseph, Missouri. The *St. Joseph Gazette* noted their marriage license among those issued that week.

By 1895, Albert and Eliza were living in **Elwood, Doniphan County, Kansas**, just across the Missouri River. He died there on **July 22, 1896**, and was buried in **Elwood Cemetery**.

Albert's life reflects the journey of many nineteenth-century Americans—born in the Northeast, drawn west by opportunity, tested by war, and settled again in the heartland. His story captures the steady rhythm of service, family, and perseverance that helped shape the Midwest after the Civil War.

AI Tool Used: ChatGPT (GPT-5)
Prompt Used:

> "You are an expert genealogist. Attached is a PDF file containing information about one of my relatives. Italicized text is from newspaper articles. Please create a 500-word biography from the attached file, summarize life events, and add historical context, but do not add or embellish genealogical details. The tone should be casual and suitable for family members."

More About the Process

After seeing how well the 500-word version summarized Albert's story, I was curious how ChatGPT would handle a longer, more detailed biography using the same information. Below is the **original prompt** I provided to the AI, followed by the **expanded biography** it created. This version includes additional context, transitions, and narrative detail while still staying true to the documented facts in my research notes.

> You are an expert genealogist. Attached is a PDF file containing information about one of my relatives. Italicized text is from newspaper articles. Please create a draft biography from the attached file, including parents, siblings, spouses and children (with birth and death dates and places), summarize life events, and add historical facts as appropriate, but do not

add or embellish any extra genealogical details. Please use any newspaper articles and/or excerpts to enhance the biography. Use section headings. Expand the information in each section to add more details. Incorporate the footnotes from the original document. At the end, add a section providing historical context for this person's life. The tone should be casual and suitable for family members.

Albert Hutchinson (ca. 1836–1896)

Early Life in New York

Albert Hutchinson was born around 1836 in Northampton, Fulton County, New York. The 1850 census lists a fourteen-year-old Albert living in Wheatland, Monroe County, New York, in the household of Ephraim and Cynthia Finch. Although the record doesn't specify why he was there, it suggests that as a teenager he may have been working or boarding with the family, as was common at the time for young men in rural New York.

Marriage and Early Family Life

Albert moved west to Iowa, where he married **Julia Harding** on September 14, 1859, in Black Hawk County. By 1860 the couple was settled in Mount Vernon Township, Black Hawk County, where Albert worked as a farmer. Their household included Julia, her younger sister Isabella Harding, and a man named Loren Gilbert, perhaps a laborer or family friend.

The couple began raising a family in Iowa. Their first child, **Gertrude**, was born in July 1860, followed by **Albert G.** in June 1862. Life in the 1860s, however, would soon be shaped by the turmoil of the Civil War.

Civil War Service

Albert enlisted in **Company D of the 1st Iowa Cavalry Volunteers**, commanded by Captain Jinks. His initial enlistment ended on December 31, 1863, at Little Rock, Arkansas, but he reenlisted the very next day, continuing to serve his adopted state. He was mustered in again in March 1864 in Buchanan County, Iowa.

Like many soldiers, Albert experienced hardships during his service. His military records note that part of his bounty payment was withheld when he was marked absent without leave for about two weeks in June 1864. Despite that blemish, he served until February 15, 1866, when he was discharged in Austin, Texas—nearly a year after the war ended.

Return to Iowa and Family Growth

After returning home, Albert resumed farming in Iowa. His family continued to grow: **William Henry** was born in 1865, followed by **Frederick**, **Cary**, **Winifred Mae ("Winnie")**, **Elnora**, **Guy Thomas**, **Francesca**, and later **Elvira**.

Land records show Albert purchasing four acres of farmland in Bremer County in December 1869, and selling that same property in 1871. The 1870 census shows the Hutchinsons living in Jackson Township, Bremer County, with six young children at home. By 1880 they had moved to Douglas Township in Mitchell County, Iowa, where Albert was again listed as a farmer.

The 1885 Iowa State Census places the family in the same area. Albert, then fifty-five, was farming the southeast quarter of section 36, township 91, range 14. His wife Julia and eight of their children lived with him, a busy household typical of large Midwestern farm families.

Later Years and Second Marriage

By 1890, Albert had relocated to **Fishing River Township, Clay County, Missouri**, where he appeared on the veterans' schedule as a Civil War veteran who had served one year, three months, and twenty-four days. That same year, he began receiving a federal pension for his service.

After Julia's death or their separation (the record does not specify), Albert remarried. On **August 8, 1893**, he wed **Honore Eliza Van Valkenberg** in St. Joseph, Buchanan County, Missouri. A local newspaper, the *St. Joseph Gazette*, reported their marriage license among those issued that week, a small but telling glimpse of community life at the time.

By 1895, the couple was living in **Elwood, Doniphan County, Kansas**, just across the river from St. Joseph. The Kansas state census recorded Albert as sixty-five years old, born in New York, and honorably discharged from Iowa's 1st Cavalry. The household included Eliza and two young Missouri-born boys, Howard and Peter Noland, possibly her children from a previous relationship.

Death and Burial

Albert Hutchinson died on **July 22, 1896**, in Doniphan County, Kansas, at about sixty years of age. He was buried in **Elwood Cemetery** in Elwood, Kansas. His name was removed from the pension rolls in May 1897, confirming his death to federal authorities.

Historical Context

Albert's life spanned an era of enormous change in America. Born in the early industrial years of upstate New York, he came of age as settlers moved westward into the fertile lands of Iowa. His participation in the Civil War placed him among thousands of ordinary farmers who left their fields to defend the Union.

After the war, Albert joined the great migration of veterans who sought stability and opportunity on the frontier. His moves—from New York to Iowa, then to Missouri and Kansas—mirrored broader patterns of westward expansion and resettlement. His story, marked by service, family, and perseverance, reflects the lives of countless Americans who helped shape the rural Midwest in the late nineteenth century.

Conclusion

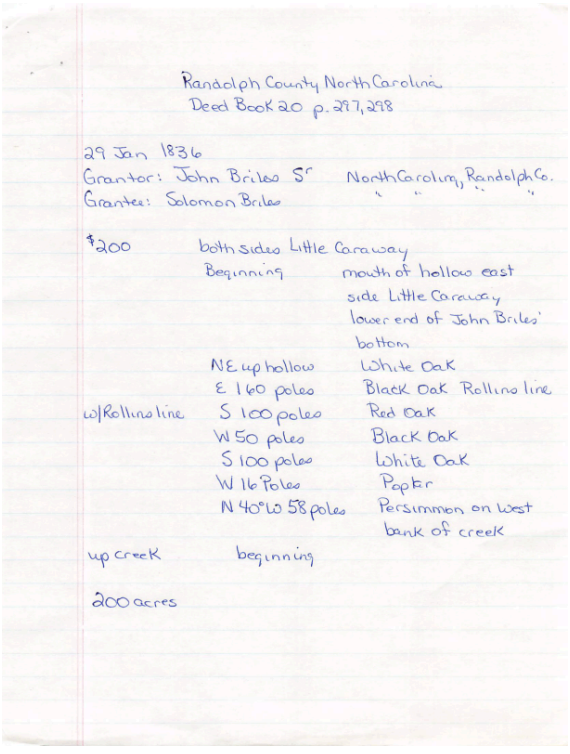
Albert Hutchinson's life is a reminder of how ordinary men shaped extraordinary times. From his New York boyhood to his years on the Iowa prairie and his service in the Civil War, Albert's story reflects endurance, adaptability, and the quiet determination shared by so many nineteenth-century families. Each census line, land record, and pension note offers a small window into that perseverance. Through this biography, Albert moves beyond the names and dates on a pedigree chart—becoming a vivid link in the unfolding story of our American past.

Monday's Diggings

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
October 27, 2025
Briles
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/10/27/mondays-diggings-16/

Today's record comes from my BRILES folder and includes both my original research notes and an image of a deed. I first located this record years ago while scrolling microfilm at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. At the time, those handwritten notes and photocopies were my only way to capture the information. Thanks to FamilySearch's Full Text Search feature, I can now revisit this same deed from home—and even generate a full transcription with just a few keystrokes.

Below, you'll find my original notes alongside the transcription created using FamilySearch's powerful search capabilities.



Randolph County North Carolina
Deed Book 20 p. 297, 298

29 Jan 1836
Grantor: John Briles Sr North Carolina, Randolph Co.
Grantee: Solomon Briles

$200 both sides Little Caraway
Beginning mouth of hollow east side Little Caraway lower end of John Briles' bottom

NE up hollow White Oak
E 160 poles Black Oak Rolling line
w/Rolling line S 100 poles Red Oak
W 50 poles Black Oak
S 100 poles White Oak
W 16 Poles Poplr
N 40°W 58 poles Persimmon on West bank of creek

up creek beginning

200 acres

Randolph County North Carolina
Record of Deeds, 1779-1963

Deeds, v. 19-21 1831-1939
film 19637 DGS 7517640

Image 287 – Book 20

page 297 (image 441)

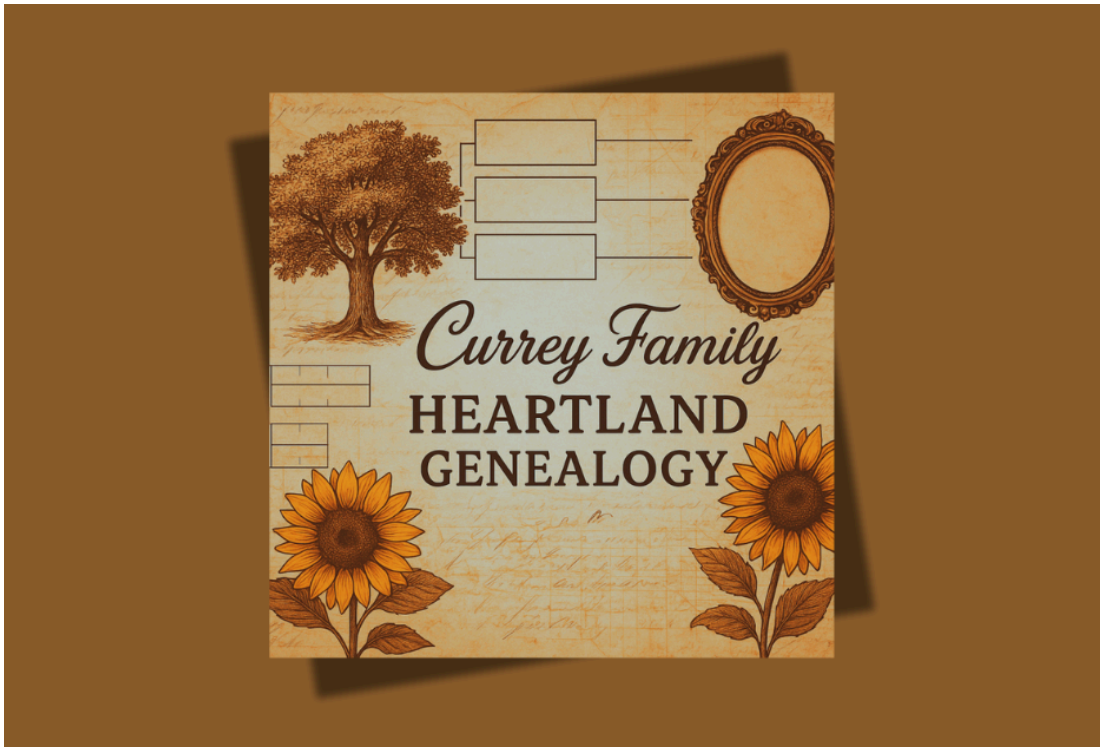
This indenture made this twenty ninth day of January
in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty
six between John Briles of the state of North Carolina & county
of Randolph on the one part and Solomon Briles on the county
and state aforesaid on the other part Witnesseth that for and
in consideration of he sum of two hundred to him in
hand paid by the said Solomon Briles the receipt whereof
the said John Briles Sr doth hereby acknowledge that this
day hath bargained and sold and delivered and by these
presents do bargain sell and deliver unto the sd Solomon
Briles a certain tract or parcel of land situate lying &
being in the county aforesaid on both sides of Little
Carraway and bounded as follows to wit, beginning at
the mouth of a hollow int he east side of little Carraway
at the lower end of said John Briles bottom and runs

page 298
North East up the hollows to a white oak then East
one hundred and sixty poles to black oak in Rollins line
thence south on said line one hundred poles to a red oak
thence west fifty poles to a black oak thence south one hundred
poles to a white oak thence west sixteen poles to a poplar thence
north 40 degrees W fifty eight poles to a persimon on the west bank
of the Creek thence up the various corses of the creek to the
beginning containing two hundred acres be the same more
or less together with all the convenances thereunto belonging
or appertaining to have and to hold the said Solomon Briles
and his heirs forever and the said John Briles doth for him
self and the rest of his heirs and executors and administrators
warrant and defend the above tract of land & rpemises unto
the said Solomon Briles his executors administrators or
assigns forever or form any person or persons holding
any just right or claim to the said land whatsoever
In witness whereof the said John Briles sr hath hereunto
set his hand and affxt his seal the day and date first above
written
John Briles (seal)
Sealed signed and delivered in the presence of
Azel Rush
Dan Briles
State of North Carolina
Randolph County
Court of please & quarter sessions
May term 1836
The execution of this deed was duly acknowledged in
open court & ordered to be registered
Hugh McCain CCC

Looking back, I'm grateful for the time spent in Salt Lake City turning microfilm readers and scribbling notes. Those efforts provided the foundation for my research, while today's digital tools make it possible to revisit and expand on that work with ease. Having both sets of records—the handwritten notes from years ago and the searchable transcriptions available now—not only preserves the history but also highlights how far genealogy research has come.

Gone Missing, Part 2 — Harris Whitaker

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
October 28, 2025
Currey
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/10/28/gone-missing-part-2-harris-whitaker/



In a previous post, I wrote about **Hiram M. Currey**, my 3rd great-grandfather who seems to have *gone missing* after about 1846. Today's story continues that thread—but this time, the mystery follows **his stepson, Harris (Harrison) Whitaker**. Harris grew up in the Currey household after his mother, **Rachel (Harris) Whitaker**, married Hiram following the death of her first husband, **Andrew Miller Whitaker**. Like Hiram, Harris left a faint trail in the records—appearing in early Illinois land and marriage records and briefly during the Civil War—but then disappearing from view. What remains are fragments of his life: his marriages, his children, and the generations that followed. Though the documents are few, they tell a story of family connections, perseverance, and westward movement across the American frontier.

The Whitaker Family Story

Harris (Harrison) Whitaker

Harris (or Harrison) Whitaker was born to **Andrew Miller Whitaker** and **Rachel (Harris) Whitaker**. His early life was marked by both family and loss. After his father Andrew's death, his mother Rachel married **Hiram Currey**, and young Harris was raised in the Currey household. This connection to the Currey family shaped much of Harris's early life and explains why his name appears in local records associated with Hiram Currey.

In fact, one of the earliest mentions of Harris comes from **March 19, 1836**, when he witnessed a land entry made by **Hiram M. Currey** in Peoria County, Illinois. It's likely that by this time Harris was already living as part of Hiram's family, helping with the work on the farm and absorbing the values of hard work and perseverance that defined his generation.

By **1860**, Harris was living in **Spring Bay Township, Woodford County, Illinois**, where he was supporting his own family. When the Civil War began, Harris enlisted in **Company B of the 47th Illinois Infantry** on **August 19, 1861**. He served faithfully until **October 12, 1862**, when he was discharged due to disability. The record notes that "Harris Whitaker of Spring Bay was discharged from service with a disability," a somber reminder of how deeply the war affected the men who fought it.

Marriage to Charlotte Duycus

Harris married **Charlotte Duycus** on **February 27, 1845**, in Woodford County, Illinois. Their marriage lasted only a few short years before Charlotte's death on **July 10, 1849**. She was buried in **Eichhorn Cemetery** near Spring Bay.

Harris and Charlotte had one son:

- **Jacob S. Whittaker**, born about **1847** in Spring Bay, Illinois.

Second and Third Marriages

After Charlotte's death, Harris remarried within the Ruckle family. On **January 26, 1851**, he wed **Mary Ann Ruckle**, daughter of **George Ruckle** and **Nancy Ayers**. Mary Ann died only a year later, on **January 17, 1852**, at age 20, shortly after giving birth to a daughter, **Helena Whittaker**, on **January 10, 1852**.

Harris then married **Elizabeth Ruckle**, Mary Ann's sister, on **April 18, 1852**, in Woodford County. Elizabeth, born about **1827** in **Fayette County, Pennsylvania**, was also the mother of a daughter named **Amy Thompson**, born around 1848. Harris and Elizabeth lived together in Spring Bay for many years, and she helped raise his children from previous marriages.

Second Generation

Jacob S. Whittaker (1847–1884)

Jacob S. Whittaker, son of Harris and Charlotte (Duycus) Whitaker, was born about **1847** in Spring Bay, Woodford County, Illinois. He appears in the **1850** and **1860** censuses living in the community where his father settled.

Following in his father's footsteps, Jacob enlisted during the Civil War—joining **Company F of the 85th Illinois Infantry** on **June 21, 1862**. He served honorably and was **mustered out in Washington, D.C., on June 5, 1865**.

Jacob married **Marietta Woodcock** on **July 24, 1865**, in Woodford County. The couple later moved west, eventually settling in **Chico, Butte County, California**, where Jacob became active in the **Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.)**, joining **Halleck Post No. 19** in **September 1883**.

By early 1884, Jacob was living in Oroville, California, where he finally received his long-awaited military **pension**—just weeks before his death. Newspaper reports from March 1884 described him as "a brave and gallant soldier" who "received the wound from the effects of which he died." He was only 37 years old.

Jacob and Marietta had one infant daughter:

- **Amnie (or Annie) Whittaker**, born **February 11, 1882**, who died a week later and was buried in **Andover Cemetery, Butler County, Kansas**.

After Jacob's passing, Marietta was living in **Texas**, where she was mentioned in his obituary.

Helena Whittaker Fuller (1852–1933)

Helena, the daughter of Harris and Mary Ann (Ruckle) Whitaker, was born on **January 10, 1852**, in Illinois. She married **Stillman Metcalf Fuller**, who was born **January 30, 1845**, in **Brimfield, Peoria County, Illinois**. The couple spent their early married years in Kansas before joining the wave of settlers who moved into **Oklahoma Territory** in the late 19th century.

Helena and Stillman raised a large family whose members spread across the Midwest and West, reflecting the pioneer movement of the era. Stillman died on **December 24, 1920**, and Helena lived another thirteen years, passing away on **January 5, 1933**, in **Ringwood, Major County, Oklahoma**. Both are buried in **Pleasant Hill Cemetery** near Meno, Oklahoma.

Their fifteen children include:

1. **Oran Lovander Fuller** (1869–1901), buried in Ringwood, Oklahoma.
2. **Charles Sylvester Fuller** (1868–1948), buried in Portland, Oregon.
3. **Edward Brooks Fuller** (1872–1961), buried in Anthony, Kansas.
4. **Elvira Louisa Fuller** (1875–1949), died in Oklahoma.
5. **Elsie E. Fuller** (1878–1881).
6. **Willard Austin Fuller** (1878–1957), buried in Enid, Oklahoma.
7. **Martin Luther Fuller** (1880–1978), buried in Enid, Oklahoma.
8. **Clara C. Fuller** (1880–1893), buried in Andover, Kansas.
9. **Everal Harris Fuller** (1884–1930), buried in Campo, Colorado.
10. **Minnie Ethel Fuller** (1887–1959), buried in San Bernardino, California.
11. **Louis Albert Fuller** (1888–1963), buried in Fort Supply, Oklahoma.
12. **Harry Robert Fuller, Sr.** (1891–1989), buried in Wabash, Indiana.
13. **Clara Comfort Fuller** (1893–1894).
14. **Nellie Lula Fuller** (1895–1992).
15. **William Frank Fuller** (1897–1975), buried in Enid, Oklahoma.

Legacy

From **Andrew and Rachel Whitaker**, through their son **Harris**, and down through **Helena and Jacob**, the Whitaker family's story spans nearly a century of American history—migration, war, hardship, and endurance. The family's connections to both **the Currey** and **Ruckle** families illustrate how closely intertwined pioneer families were in the developing Midwest.

Their descendants carried the Whitaker legacy from **Illinois to Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado, and California**, shaping the communities they joined and preserving the spirit of courage and perseverance that began with Harris's parents, **Andrew and Rachel Whitaker**.

RootsMagic Narrative Report

First Generation
1. **Harris Whitaker** witnessed the land entry of Hiram M. Currey on 19 Mar 1836 in Peoria, Peoria, Illinois, United States. [1]
He lived in Spring Bay, Woodford, Illinois, United States in 1860. [2]
He enlisted in the military Company B of the 47th Illinois Infantry on 19 Aug 1861 in Illinois. [3]
Harris was discharged from the military on 12 Oct 1862. [3] Harris Whitaker of Spring Bay was dischaged from service witha disability.
Harris Whitaker and Charlotte Duycus were married on 27 Feb 1845 in Woodford, Illinois, United States. [4–6]

Charlotte Duycus [4] died on 10 Jul 1849 in Woodford, Illinois, United States. [7]
She was buried in Jul 1849 at Eichhorn Cemetery in Spring Bay, Woodford, Illinois, United States. [7]

Harris Whitaker and Charlotte Duycus had the following child:

+2 i **Jacob S. Whittaker**, born abt 1847, Spring Bay, Woodford, IL; married Marietta Woodcock, 24 Jul 1865, Woodford, Illinois, United States; died 18 Mar 1884, Chico, Butte, California, United States.
Harris Whitaker and Elizabeth Ruckle were married on 18 Apr 1852 in Woodford, Illinois, United States. [8]

Elizabeth Ruckle, daughter of George Ruckle and Nancy Ayers, was born in 1827 in Henry Clay Township, Fayette, Pennsylvania, United States.

She was the mother of Amy Thompson who was born about 1848 in Illinois. [2]

She lived in Spring Bay, Woodford, Illinois, United States in 1860. [2]

Elizabeth died.

Harris Whitaker and Mary Ann Ruckle were married on 26 Jan 1851 in Woodford, Illinois, United States. [9]

Mary Ann Ruckle, daughter of George Ruckle and Nancy Ayers, was born on 25 Dec 1831 in Henry Clay Twp,Fayette,Pennsylvania.

She died on 17 Jan 1852 at the age of 20 in Woodford, Illinois, United States.

Harris Whitaker and Mary Ann Ruckle had the following child:
+3 i **Helena Whittaker**, born 10 Jan 1852, Illinois, United States; died 5 Jan 1933, Ringwood, Major, Oklahoma, United States.

Second Generation
2. **Jacob S. Whittaker** was born about 1847 in Spring Bay, Woodford, IL.

He lived in Woodford, Illinois, United States in 1850. [10]

He lived in Spring Bay, Woodford, Illinois, United States in 1860. [2]

Jacob enlisted in Company F of teh 85th Infantry for Illinois on 21 Jun 1862. [11–12]

He was mustered out of the military on 5 Jun 1865 in Washington, D. C.. [11]

On 26 Sep 1883, he was a member Halleck Post, No. 19, G.A.R. in Chico, Butte, California, United States. [13]

Jacob received pension in Mar 1884 in Oroville, Butte, California, United States. [14]

He died on 14 Mar 1884 at the age of 37 in Butte, California, United States. [13]

He died on 18 Mar 1884 at the age of 37 in Chico, Butte, California, United States. [15]

[Unknown] [Unknown] and Jacob S. Whittaker had the following child:

4 i **Annie Whittaker** was born on 1 Feb 1882 in Andover, Butler, Kansas, United States.

She died on 18 Feb 1882 at the age of 0 in Andover, Butler, Kansas, United States.

She was buried on 21 Feb 1882 in Andover, Butler, Kansas, United States.

Jacob S. Whittaker and Marietta Woodcock were married on 24 Jul 1865 in Woodford, Illinois, United States. [16]

Marietta Woodcock lived in Texas in 1884. [13]

Jacob S. Whittaker and Marietta Woodcock had the following child:

5 i **Amnie Whittaker** was born on 11 Feb 1882. [17]

She died on 18 Feb 1882 at the age of 0.

She was buried in Andover, Butler, Kansas, United States.

3. **Helena Whittaker** was born on 10 Jan 1852 in Illinois.

She died on 5 Jan 1933 at the age of 80 in Ringwood, Major, Oklahoma, United States.

She was buried on 7 Jan 1933 in Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Meno, Major, Oklahoma, United States.

Stillman Metcalf Fuller was born on 30 Jan 1845 in Brimfield, Peoria, Illinois, United States.

He died on 24 Dec 1920 at the age of 75 in Ringwood, Major, Oklahoma, United States.

He was buried in Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Major, Oklahoma, United States.

Stillman Metcalf Fuller and Helena Whittaker had the following children:

6 i **Louis Albert Fuller** was born on 24 Dec 1888 in Andover, Kansas.

He died on 11 Jan 1963 at the age of 74 in Fort Supply, Woodward, Oklahoma, United States.

7 ii **Minnie Ethel Fuller** was born on 15 Jan 1887 in Butler, Kansas, United States.

She died on 10 Oct 1959 at the age of 72 in San Bernardino, San Bernardino, California, United States.

She was buried in San Bernardino, San Bernardino, California, United States.

8 iii **Harry Robert Fuller Sr** was born on 29 Oct 1891 in Andover, Butler, Kansas.

He died on 9 Jan 1989 at the age of 97 in Carmel, Hamilton, Indiana.

He was buried in Oaklawn Cemetery, Wabash, Indiana, United States.

9 iv **Everal Harris Fuller** was born on 10 Sep 1884 in Butler, Kansas, United States.

He died on 21 Sep 1930 at the age of 46 in Campo, Baca, Colorado, United States.

He was buried in Campo Cem., Campo, Baca, Colorado.

10 v **Martin Luther Fuller** was born on 27 Sep 1880.

He died on 18 Jul 1978 at the age of 97 in Enid, Garfield, Oklahoma, United States.

He was buried in Enid, Garfield, Oklahoma, United States.

11 vi **Clara C. Fuller** was born about 1880 in Kansas.

She was buried in 1893 in Andover, Butler, Kansas, United States of America.

She died on 28 Apr 1893 at the age of 13.

12 vii **Clara Comfort Fuller** was born on 25 Aug 1893 in , Butler, Kansas.

She died on 28 Mar 1894 at the age of 0 in , Butler, Kansas.

13 viii **Willard Austin Fuller** was born on 25 Sep 1878 in Andover, Butler, Kansas, United States.

He was buried in 1957 in Enid, Garfield, Oklahoma, United States of America.

He died on 16 Mar 1957 at the age of 78 in Enid, Garfield, Oklahoma.

14 ix **Elsie E. Fuller** was born in 1878 in , Butler, KS.

She died on 28 Jul 1881 at the age of 3.

15 x **Elvira Louisa Fuller** was born on 16 Feb 1875 in Bruno Township, Butler, Kansas, United States.

She died on 4 Jan 1949 at the age of 73 in Oklahoma.

16 xi **Nellie Lula Fuller** was born on 4 Apr 1895 in Labette, Kansas, United States.

She died on 13 Mar 1992 at the age of 96.

17 xii **Edward Brooks Fuller** was born on 7 Nov 1872 in , Butler, Kansas.

He died on 25 Oct 1961 at the age of 88.

He was buried in Anthony, Harper, Kansas.

18 xiii **William Frank Fuller** was born on 30 Dec 1897 in Kansas.

He died on 2 Jan 1975 at the age of 77 in Enid, Garfield, Oklahoma, United States.

He was buried on 5 Jan 1975 in Enid Cemetery, Enid, Garfield, Oklahoma, United States.

19 xiv **Oran Lovander Fuller** was born on 22 Dec 1869 in Brimfield, Peoria, Illinois, United States.

He died on 11 Dec 1901 at the age of 31 in Ringwood, Major, Oklahoma, United States.

He was buried in Forrest Cem, Ringwood, Major, Oklahoma.

20 xv **Charles Sylvester Fuller** was born on 13 Mar 1868 in Woodford, Illinois, United States.

He died on 15 Dec 1948 at the age of 80 in Portland, OR.

He was buried on 18 Dec 1948 in Portland, OR.

ENDNOTES:

1. Hiram M. Curry (Peoria County) Preemption, certificate no. #8250, Quincy, Illinois , Land Office; Land Entry Papers 1800-1908; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

2. 1860 U.S. Census, Woodford County, Illinois, population schedule, Spring Bay Township, Woodford County, Illinois, page 214, Image 7 of 13, family 1513, Harrison Whittaker; digital images, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online 17 October 2025)

3. Illinois, Army Records 1861-1866. Film #008916207. Harris Whitaker, 1862; page 414; image 216 of 371, digitized images, FamilySearch familysearch.org : viewed online 16 October 2025.

4. Marriage Record, Marriages — Illinois to 1850 searched on 2/14/1999 (Doc. Curry.IL.086).

5. “Illinois, Compiled Marriages, 1790-1860,” Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online (1 July 2021), Harris Whitaker.

6. “Illinois, Compiled Marriages, 1791-1850,” Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online (1 July 2021), Harris Whitaker.

7. Find a Grave, database and images, Find a Grave (www.findagrave.com : viewed online 16 October 2025), memorial for Charlotte Whitake (?-1849), Find a Grave Memorial no. 76847821, created by Amelia Crombie-Christy, citing Eichhorn Cemetery, Spring Bay, Woodford County, Illinois;, Charlotte Whitaker.

8. “Illinois, Compiled Marriages, 1851-1900,” database, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com : viewed online 17 October 2025), Harrison Whitaker / Elizabeth Thompson.

9. “Illinois, Compiled Marriages, 1851-1900,” database Harrison Whitaker / Mary Ann Ruckle.

10. 1850 U.S. Census, Woodford County, Illinois, population schedule, District No. 56, Woodford County, Illinois, page 460, Image 33 of 108, family 226, Jacob Whitaker in household of Benjamin Merthew; digital images, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online 17 October 2025)

11. Historical Data Systems comp, U.S., Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles, 1861-1865 (Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2009), Jacob Whitaker.

12. “U.S. Civil War Soldiers, 1861-1865,” National Park Service, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : Illinois, viewed online (17 October 2025), Jacob Whittaker.

13. “Another Veteraqn Gone,” Chico Weekly Enterprise (Chico, California), 14 March 1884, page 3; digital images, Newspapers.com (www.newspapers.com : viewed online 17 October 2025).

14. “Local news,” The Weekly Mercury (Oroville, California), 21 March 1884, page 3; digital images, Newspapers.com (www.newspapers.com : viewed online 17 October 2025).

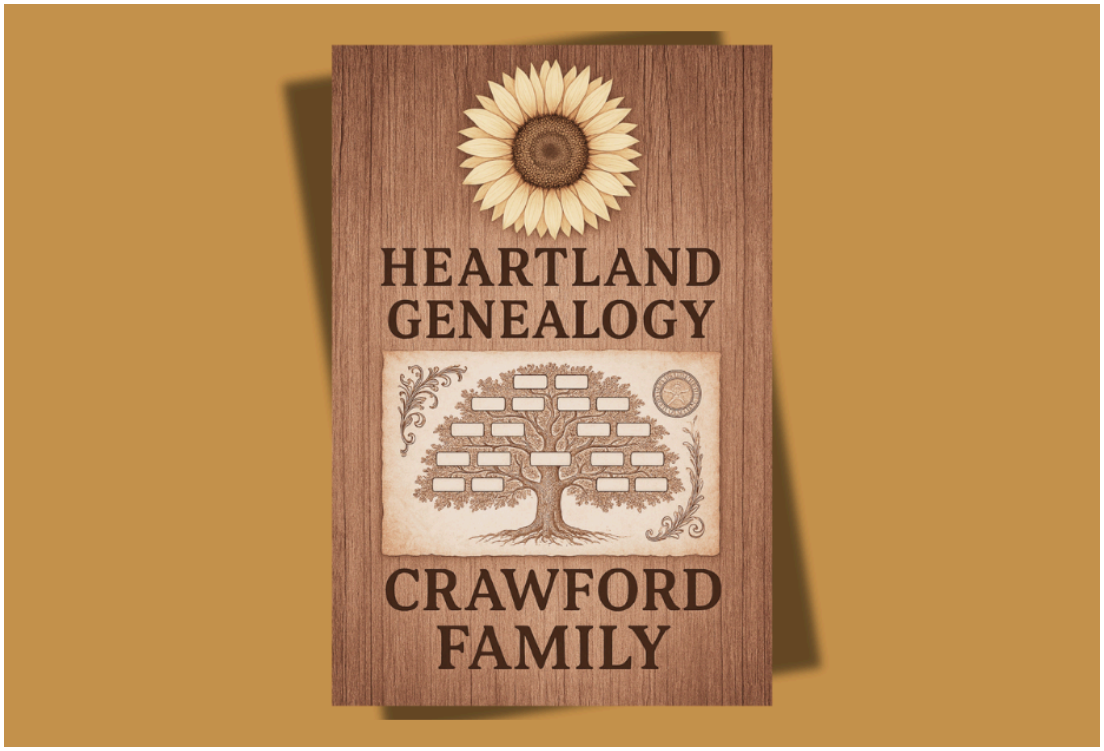
15. Headstones Provided for Deceased Union Civil War Veterans 1879-1903 (Provo, UT: Ancestry.com, 2007)

16. “Illinois, Compiled Marriages, 1851-1900,” database Jacob Whitaker.

17. Find a Grave, database and images, Find a Grave (www.findagrave.com : viewed online 17 October 2025), memorial for Amnie Whitaker (1882-1882), Find a Grave Memorial no. 19826487, created by Stan Weir / maintained by Gary Cowart, citing Andover Cemetry, Andover, Butler County, Kansas; accompanying photograph by Stan Weir, Amnie WHitaker.

Continuing to Untangle My Crawford–Sellers DNA Connections

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
October 29, 2025
Crawford,DNA
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/10/29/crawford-dna/



In a recent post, I described my "experiment" to identify the **Sellers** matches in my DNA tree. While some might consider my method a bit unconventional (or even slightly daring), it led to some exciting results. Not only did I locate descendants of **Mary** and **Sarah Crawford**, who each married a **Sellers** brother, but I also found matches descending from their brother **James Crawford**, who married **Martha Knight**.

Using Ancestry's Colored Dots

To keep everything organized, I used Ancestry's color-dot system to mark both the ThruLines matches and their shared matches. My current coding looks like this:

- **7 CRAWFORD DOUGLAS SELLERS** — ThruLines matches – See Color Coding post
- **SELLERS** — Descendants of James and Mary (Crawford) Sellers *or* William and Sarah (Crawford) Sellers, and all of their shared matches
- **Knight–James Crawford** — Descendants of James and Martha (Knight) Crawford, and their shared matches

Testing a Hypothesis

Working with the hypothesis that **Rebekah Crawford's husband, John**, was a brother to **James (Rebecca Anderson) Crawford** and **William (Elizabeth) Crawford**, I experimented with changing the parents of "my" James Crawford in Ancestry to each of these brothers to see how ThruLines would respond.

The results were enlightening. Those two trials not only found descendants of James and William, but the **Rebecca Anderson Crawford** ThruLines also revealed **Maxwell** descendants—likely connected to Rebecca's first marriage to John Maxwell. That discovery led me to continue expanding my color-coded system.

Updated Color Codes

- **7 CRAWFORD DOUGLAS SELLERS** — ThruLines matches for James/Rebecca Crawford *or* William/Elizabeth Crawford
- **Anderson–Maxwell** — Descendants of Rebecca Anderson and her first husband (John Maxwell)
- **Anderson–Crawford** — Descendants of James and Rebecca (Anderson) Crawford
- **Crawford, William–Elizabeth** — Descendants of William and Elizabeth Crawford

What the Numbers Show

Although I'm not finished color-coding every shared match, my current tallies show just how extensive these networks are:

- **109** ThruLines descendants across the Crawford lines
- **949** Anderson–Crawford shared matches
- **652** Anderson–Maxwell shared matches
- **791** Crawford, William–Elizabeth shared matches
- **1,008** Knight–James Crawford shared matches
- **1,024** Sellers shared matches

Drawing Conclusions

Based on the depth and overlap among these shared matches, I'm increasingly convinced that the father of my **James Crawford** was a brother to **John, James, and William Crawford**—all believed, according to the **FamilySearch Tree**, to be sons of **James and Margery Crawford** of early Virginia.

Every new shared match adds another thread to this genetic tapestry—and reminds me that even unconventional experiments can reveal meaningful connections.

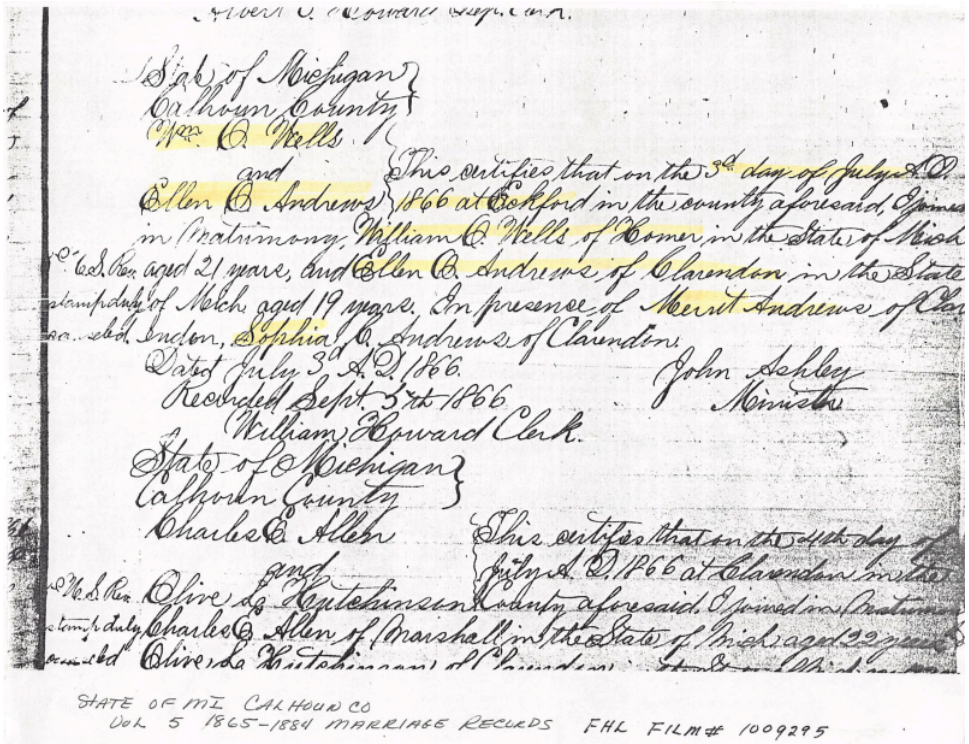
Reflection

As I continue exploring these interconnected **Crawford–Sellers** lines, I'm reminded how DNA research is both science and storytelling. The dots and color codes may look like data, but behind every match is a family, a shared history, and perhaps the answer to a centuries-old question. Each discovery—no matter how small—brings me closer to understanding how my branch fits within this larger Crawford family tree. And while my "experiments" may not follow a traditional research path, they continue to spark new questions, new theories, and renewed excitement for the hunt.

Friday Find

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
October 31, 2025
Michigan,Wells
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/10/31/friday-find-98/

Today's find from my **WELLS notebook** is the marriage record for **William O. Wells** and **Ellen O. Andrews** in Calhoun County, Michigan.


State of Michigan
Calhoun County
Wm O. Wells
and
Ellen O. Andrews
This certifies that on the 3d day of July A.D.
1866 at Bokford in the county aforesaid, I joined
in Matrimony, William O. Wells of Homer in the State of Michigan
aged 21 years, and Ellen O. Andrews of Clarendon in the State
of Mich aged 19 years. In presence of Merrit Andrews of Cla
and Sophia O. Andrews of Clarendon.
Dated July 3d A.D. 1866.
John Ashley
Minister
Recorded Sept. 5th 1866
William Howard Clerk.
State of Michigan
Calhoun County
Charles O. Allen
and
Olive L. Hutchinson
Charles O. Allen of Marshall in the State of Michigan 22 years
Olive L. Hutchinson of Clarendon
STATE OF MI CALHOUN CO
VOL 5 1865-1884 MARRIAGE RECORDS FHL FILM# 1009295

State of Michigan

Calhoun County

Wm O. **Wells**

and

Ellen O. Andrews

This certifies that on the 3d day of July A.D.

1866 at Eckford in the County aforesaid , I joined

in Matrimony , William O. **Wells** of Homer in the State of Mich

aged 21 years , and Ellen O. **Andrews** of Clarendon in the State

of Mich . aged 19 years . In presence of Merrit **Andrews** of Clar -endon , Sophia C. **Andrews** of Clarendon .

John Ashley

Minister

Dated July 3d A. D. 1866 .

Recorded Sept. 5th 1866

William Howard Clerk

5 U.S. Rev.

stamp duly

canseled

"Calhoun, Michigan, United States records," images, FamilySearch (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939J-4P91-T9?view=explore : Oct 13, 2025), image 969 of 1072; Michigan. County Court (Calhoun County). Image Group Number: 004653762

This marriage record provides another key link in the Wells family history. William and Ellen were married just after the Civil War, when Michigan communities like Eckford and Homer were growing steadily as settlers arrived from New York and Pennsylvania.